

Saturday March 2 1996

Abu Dhabi D 5.50	Hong Kong HKS 25	Poland P 2.50
Algeria ALG 10	Hungary H 200	Portugal P 2.00
Andorra AD 10	India IN 15	Qatar Q 15.00
Australia AU 25	Kenya KE 10	Romania ROM 2.00
Bahrain BH 10	Latvia LV 10	Saudi Arabia SAR 10
Bangladesh BD 10	Lithuania LT 10	Slovenia SVK 10
Belgium BE 10	Luxembourg LF 10	Slovakia SKS 10
Bulgaria B 10	Malta M 10	Spain S 10
Canada CA 12.50	Maldives MV 10	Sweden SW 10
Cyprus C 10	Malawi M 10	Switzerland S 10
Czech Republic KC 10	Malaysia M 10	Thailand TH 10
Denmark D 10	Maldives MV 10	Turkey TR 10
Egypt E 10	Maldives MV 10	Ukraine UA 10
Finland F 10	Maldives MV 10	USA US 2.75
France FR 10	Maldives MV 10	Zimbabwe Z 10
Germany GR 10	Maldives MV 10	
Greece G 10	Maldives MV 10	

The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

46,490

Outlook

Susan Sontag on 100 years of cinema



Plus: Sue Limb, Trevor McDonald

Sport

More red faces for England's cricketers

Page 12

Interview

Yankee at the heart of the blue-blood court

Outlook page 17

Schools face exam revolution

Radical plan for new framework

Donald MacLeod
Education Correspondent

AN ATTEMPT to restore Britain's competitive edge with the most radical overhaul of education and training since the war will shortly be proposed to ministers by Sir Ron Dearing, the Government's chief curriculum adviser.

A recent draft of his forthcoming review of the curriculum for 16-19-year-olds, seen by the Guardian, reveals he has gone much further than expected in calling for a national framework of awards to span the full range of academic and vocational courses in schools, as well as qualifications gained through on-the-job training.

Proposals to stretch the brightest students, including taking units of university degree courses while still at school, are matched by new approaches for the 20 per cent of pupils who leave school without passing English and maths at GCSE.

They will be able to take vocational and basic skills courses at further education colleges.

Sir Ron is consulting widely among teachers, employers, and politicians on both sides of Parliament to build support for his final report to Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, later this month. He is anxious to avoid his proposals being shelved in the run-up to the election.

He will stress the need for

levels, merging exam boards and vocational bodies like City and Guilds, and relaunching the discredited Youth Training scheme.

Students would be able to follow any of three distinct pathways — academic, through GCSEs to A levels; applied, through GNVQ intermediate and advanced levels taken at school or college, leading either to higher education or to employment, and vocational, doing job-specific National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) while in employment or in Youth Traineeships, which could work up to a Modern Apprenticeship.

Young people would be able to change pathways and combine courses from different pathways as they rose through four levels: Entry, Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced.

Recommendations include:

- Advanced National Diploma awarded for two A levels or vocational equivalent; Intermediate National Diploma for five GCSE grade Cs or equivalent.
- New Baccalaureat-style National General Diploma at 18 covering four areas of study.
- Cutting the number of A level syllabuses, investigating comparability of subjects and boards. "Easy" subjects to be toughened.
- Relaunching Youth Training with Youth Traineeships.
- Relaunching National Record of Achievement to be used as jobs CV and lifelong learning planner.
- More rigorous GNVQs with less cumbersome assessment.
- New AS level to form first half of A level and allow for a broader curriculum.
- Reviving S level to stretch brightest candidates.

The report's conclusions are likely to be welcomed by Labour, which has backed Sir Ron's review of higher education.

Unionist fury as Adams gets US visa

David Sharrock and Martin Walker in Washington

PRESIDENT Clinton made his most ambitious intervention into the Northern Ireland peace process last night by granting the Sinn Fein leader, Gerry Adams, a new three-month multiple-entry visa, even though the IRA has not renewed its ceasefire.

The news, which came too late for reaction from John Major and his Irish counterpart John Bruton, who are both in Thailand, angered Unionists but left nationalists and loyalist representatives unmoved.

In Dublin, senior officials believe it shows that President Clinton is willing to take a risk on bolstering Mr Adams's credibility within his own movement to bring about another IRA ceasefire.

The assumption appeared to be that Adams would be taken up in Washington. "The President would not have taken this step if he did not believe, based on our contacts with Mr Adams, that this would further the peace process," said the official White House spokesman, Michael McCurry.

The White House stressed that the visa could be revoked instantly if Mr Adams broke his undertaking not to engage in fund-raising, and added that the visa had been granted in the context of the very important and historic announcement by London and Dublin that all-party talks were to start on June 10.

"The all-party talks have long been a goal of our foreign policy efforts," Mr McCurry said. "This gives Sinn Fein what they long have looked for and the ceasefire needs to be restored now." He said the British and Irish governments had been informed of the decision, taken yesterday by President Clinton.

The White House carefully did not say that London or Dublin had been consulted. The clear implication of the White House's public statements was that a renewed



England players practice a line out at a training session for today's Calcutta Cup match at Murrayfield against Scotland who, in spite of being unaccustomed favourites, yesterday continued to be flogging with optimism, writes Frank Keating. Victory

Would ensure only their third Grand Slam in history. Last night Edinburgh hosted the premiere of the film The Bruce, about Scotland's ancient warrior king who routed the English. The English held up insignificantly in their hotel, with captain Will Carling warning players to smother their telephones. "Anonymous Scots repeatedly ring through the night to sleep you getting any sleep?" PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID CANNON

Five Nations previews, page 9

'Joint-92nd' Gorbachev dreams of poll triumph

James Meek in Moscow

IT WAS like a happy dream of bygone days for Mikhail Gorbachev. There was hardly space to blink amid the mass of journalists, photographers and camera crews squeezed into a tiny overheated room as the last Soviet leader held forth on communism, Nato, even Chernobyl.

He was loving it. It was world statesman, Nobel prize winner, author, film star, the champion of perestroika and glasnost, the hope of free peoples everywhere. He was tanned, he was fit, he was on a roll. Would he fight Boris Yeltsin in presidential elections?

"I will," he said. "I will."

The trick with dreams is not waking up. When someone asked about the opinion polls, which show that the former Soviet president is supported by half of 1 per cent of voters, Mr Gorbachev seemed dangerously close to regaining consciousness. But not for long.

"The latest poll I heard said that the basic mass of people will decide who to



Mikhail Gorbachev yesterday

vote for" in the voting booths," he said. "So let's not be in a hurry."

Mr Gorbachev was ostensibly calling for all democratic forces to unite under — or at least alongside — him against his old rival, Mr Yeltsin, and the communist leader Gennady Zyuganov. But if the democrats failed to heed his call, he would fight alone.

The former Soviet leader, who is 65 today, lost his job

Enter the Dragon

As the Prime Minister John Major makes his final visit to Hong Kong before China's takeover a Guardian team of reporters will assess the prospects for the colony's politics, trade and finance under Beijing control.

Throughout next week there will be reports on the lives of Hong Kong's rich and famous, gambling at Happy Valley, the new airport, the Black market in fake products and overview of economic and investment trends from Will Hutton and Alex Brummer.

Plus an interview with Governor Chris Patten

Overdose death chef spent £40,000 a year on drugs

LEADING chef Marc Renzland spent £40,000 a year on drugs and when he was found dead he had taken enough heroin to kill five people, an inquest heard yesterday.

Mr Renzland, aged 39, who ran two fashionable London restaurants with his identical twin brother Max, died after a three-day drugs binge last November during which he "continuously" smoked crack cocaine, followed by a lethal dose of heroin, Southwark coroner's court in south London was told.

His body was found on November 25, in a flat in Deptford, south London, belonging to a friend, Angela Lane, 33. She told the inquest they would get together for drug-taking binges. She said Mr

Inside

News 2
World news 5
Sport 8
Comment 12

Outlook

Other lives 15
Letters 16
Interview 17
Arts 18

Comment

19
20
21
22
23

Content

24
25
26
27
28

Other

29
30
31
32
33



UNSECURED PERSONAL LOANS

Our rate is now down to its lowest ever

13.8% APR

You can take out an unsecured Personal Loan for any amount from £500 to £10,000 for absolutely any reason with Hamilton Direct Bank, a division of HFC Bank plc, the bank behind the GM Card. So why not take advantage of our attractive fixed rates?

13.8% APR on unsecured Personal Loans from £500 to £10,000

13.8% APR on unsecured Personal Loans from £500 to £10,000

HAMILTON
DIRECT BANK

To take advantage of our lowest rate ever, call now on

FREephone 0800 30 3000

Quoting ref: 91000/300

*13.8% APR is available on loans from £5,000 to £10,000. Loans for business or investment purposes are excluded. Rates are correct as at 24/2/96. A written quotation of our credit terms is available on request. All loans are subject to status. You must be aged 24 years or over and on receipt of a regular income. This offer is not available in the Isle of Man. For your convenience and to improve our service to you, we may receive or monitor calls made to Hamilton Direct Bank. Hamilton Direct Bank, a division of HFC Bank plc, an authorised institution under the Banking Act 1987. Registered Office: North Street, Walsfield, Wetherby, Yorkshire S14 4TT. Registered in England No. 1111701.

Ministers unbowed by divorce defeat

Mackay scorns Lords backing for splitting pensions on break-up

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

THE Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay, suggested yesterday the Government would seek to reverse Thursday's crushing defeat in the Lords on its divorce reform bill...

Lord Mackay's bill already faces a mauling by Tory backbench MPs unhappy at what they regard as an excessively liberal approach

impossible" to do it within the current family law bill. His remarks prompted Opposition anger and the first signs of a backbench rebellion from Tory women MPs...

She argued pensions were often the largest single asset in a marriage, especially if the couple had been married for a long time. Lord Mackay's bill already faces the prospect of a mauling by Tory backbench MPs...

His remarks ran counter to initial briefings from Tory ministers that the Government would try to accommodate the spirit of the changes in the bill when it reaches the Commons...

Last year the Government conceded men should be required to pass on up to half of their pension receipts to wives on retirement. Under the amendments moved by Labour, the pension itself would be divided...



Ada Nightingale says she sleeps on the sofa because she can only afford to heat one room

'No one can imagine what it is like...'

Teresa Hunter

ADA NIGHTINGALE has been living on temporary DSS crisis loans since December after her former husband stopped making any maintenance payments. After more than 30 years of marriage to a bank manager, at the age of 58 she is destitute.

divorce, Mo Whitaker of South Humberide. Her solicitor fought for and won a 37.5 per cent share of her husband's pension in the same year. However, yet another judge

'I have to sleep on the sofa in the living room because I cannot afford to heat more than one room in the house'

ruled on appeal that it was illegal for a pension to be split in that way and stopped the payment immediately. Ms Nightingale's husband allowed her maintenance back to £150 per month when he

took early retirement. Then he stopped making payments altogether.

Ms Nightingale said: "No one can imagine what it is like knowing what the next penny is coming from."

supported a husband through his long career — to then end up in a jobless poverty not knowing where the next penny is coming from. "I have to sleep on the sofa in the living room because I cannot afford to heat more than one room in the house."

cannot afford to heat more than one room in the house."

Sally Quinn, a spokeswoman for Fair Shares, which has campaigned for a wife's right to a share in her husband's pension, said: "Today's destitute divorcees were young married women in the days when unless you were super-rich you stayed at home and looked after your children. They were not crèches and nurseries. "They were often abandoned at a time in their lives when it was too late to acquire the new skills which might have earned them a living and far too late to build a pension in their own right."

Money Guardian, page 21

Electoral row on eve of poll in Australia

Christopher Zinn in Sydney

AUSTRALIA'S electoral system, which includes compulsory voting and a preferential system, has been challenged in the courts in the run-up to today's federal election...

The Langer case, too, has caused some embarrassment to the Australian Electoral Commission, which claims it is against the Electoral Act to encourage people to vote other than fully preferentially.

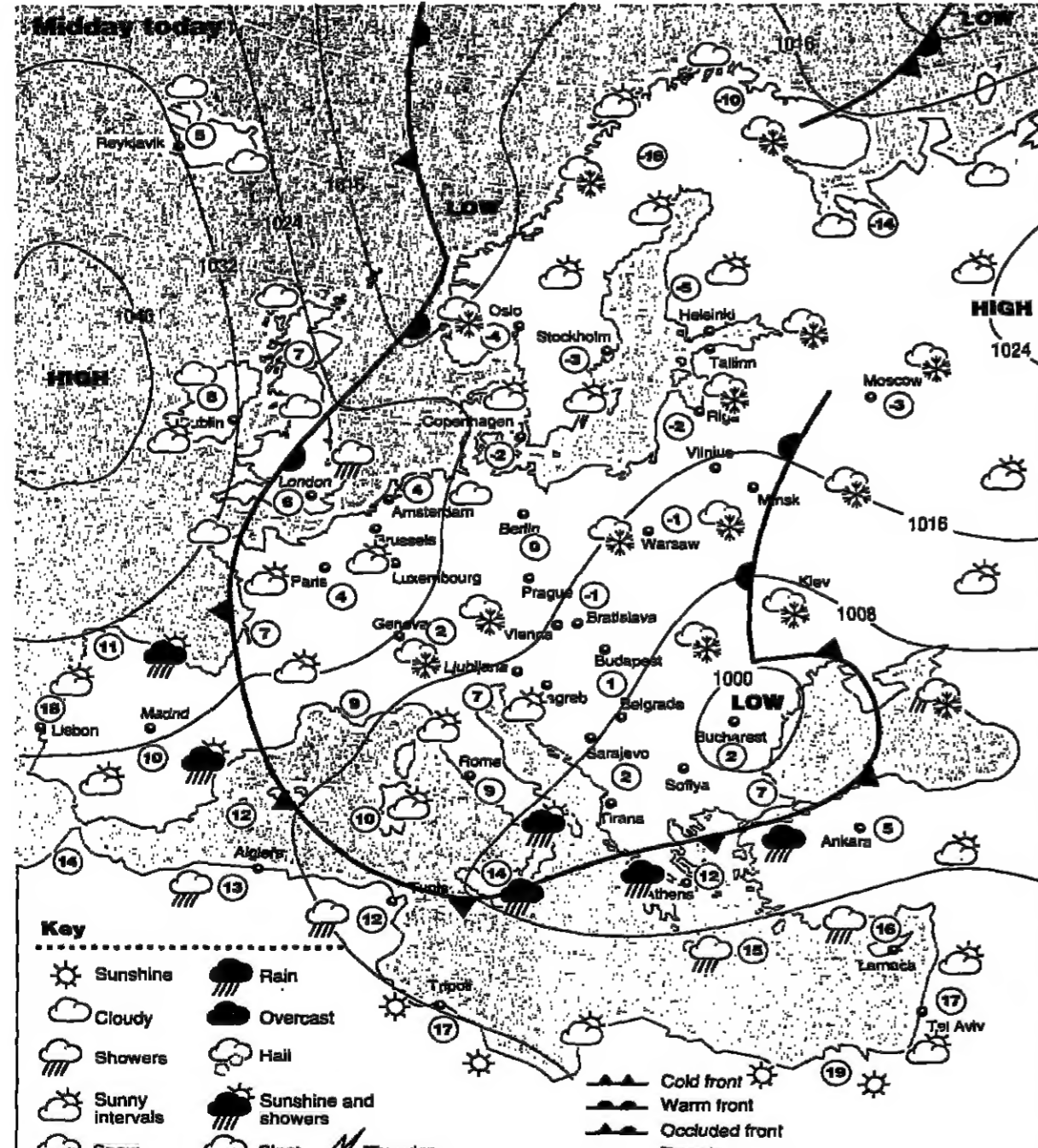
Mr Langer said of his prosecution: "It couldn't be better calculated to draw attention to the fact that this is not a free election." A Newpoll survey showed one in five Australians would not vote if they were not required by law to turn up at the ballot box on pain of a fine of \$50 or \$25. After the last federal election, more than 40 Australians were jailed for refusing to pay their fines for not voting.

ard, were found to be forged and senior Labor figures were forced into making a humiliating apology.

The Langer case, too, has caused some embarrassment to the Australian Electoral Commission, which claims it is against the Electoral Act to encourage people to vote other than fully preferentially.

Mr Langer said of his prosecution: "It couldn't be better calculated to draw attention to the fact that this is not a free election." John Hirst, an historian and republican, said the electoral system should be reformed with the constitution if there is going to be an Australian republic by the year 2000. "The good response is the correct one. It can't be a good system if a citizen ends up in jail for making a suggestion about how you should vote," he said.

The weather in Europe



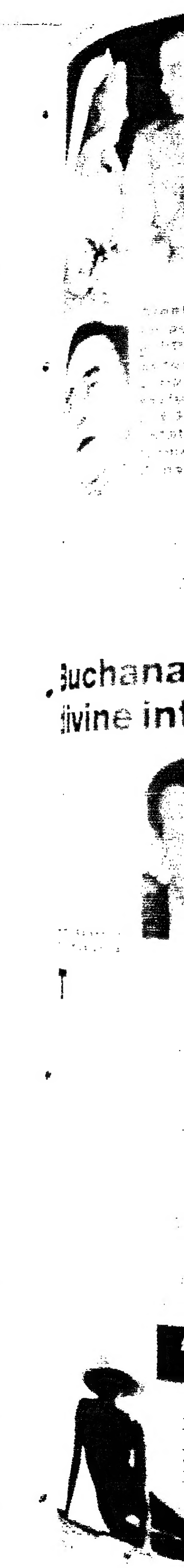
Forecast for the cities, Around the world, European weather outlook, and a detailed table of weather forecasts for various cities including London, Paris, Rome, and others.

Television and radio — Saturday

BBC 1: 8.25am News, 9.00am Breakfast, 10.00am News, 11.00am News, 12.00pm News, 1.00pm News, 2.00pm News, 3.00pm News, 4.00pm News, 5.00pm News, 6.00pm News, 7.00pm News, 8.00pm News, 9.00pm News, 10.00pm News, 11.00pm News, 11.30pm News, 12.00am News.

Television and radio — Sunday

BBC 1: 7.00am News, 8.00am News, 9.00am News, 10.00am News, 11.00am News, 12.00pm News, 1.00pm News, 2.00pm News, 3.00pm News, 4.00pm News, 5.00pm News, 6.00pm News, 7.00pm News, 8.00pm News, 9.00pm News, 10.00pm News, 11.00pm News, 11.30pm News, 12.00am News.





Greek judges enrage politicians as ruling supports restoration of £30m estates to former king Constantine

John Ezzard

OUTRAGE broke out among politicians in Athens yesterday after an unexpected Supreme Court ruling which supports the restoration to former king Constantine of £30 million worth of estates confiscated from him two years ago.

The 34,000 acres of land include Mon Repos, the former royal summer palace at Corfu where the Duke of Edinburgh was born. He and his family were evacuated from there by a British battleship in 1923 during one of Greece's earlier anti-royal convulsions. It was handed over to local people by the socialist government of the former prime minister, Andreas Papandreu.

The court ruled by 25 votes to 15 that the government acted unconstitutionally in passing a law confiscating the properties. The decision reversed an earlier ruling and will contribute to what is already an acute case of government apoplexy over Constantine's repeated attempts to re-establish his family in Greece. Constantine has a surprisingly strong following among the opposition New Democracy party which has been rudeness since losing power in 1983.

The government's main fear is that Constantine could become a rallying point for the party. Last week his son Pavlos told Paris Match that the family would return to Greece if it got the property back. The court ruling is regarded as a striking victory for Constantine, who lives in exile in London. He is travelling in the United States and aides said they were unable to contact him with the news last night.

But he does not conceal his ambition to force a referendum on the monarchy in the hope that it will return him to the throne, reversing a plebiscite which deposed him in 1974. The Supreme Court case was seen as a key stage in that campaign. The ruling dominated front pages and television and radio news in Greece yesterday. Costas Tsapagos, foreign editor of the newspaper Eleftherotipia, said: "The reaction has been mostly hostile. To the mass of ordinary people, the royal family is ancient history."

Early criticism focused on the role of five judges who were revealed to have changed their minds since the first ruling. They were accused of violating the spirit of the law even if they were upholding its letter. In London, a Greek government source said: "People are very strongly asking why the judges changed their minds. They see this as Constantine's way of preparing for his return."

The finding covers the ex-king's 10,000-acre estate at Tatoi, north of Athens, the 8,300-acre Polydendri estate in Thessaly and the 16,000-acre Mon Repos. The case now goes to the Greek state council. If it negates the ruling a special tribunal made up of judges from both courts will have the final say.

Constantine has said that he will go to the European Court of Human Rights if he does not win his case in Greece. The confiscation law also deprived family members of Greek citizenship unless they gave up claims to the crown, which they have refused to do.



Mon Repos, the former royal summer palace at Corfu, Constantine's marriage to Queen Anne-Marie in 1964 (top left) and a recent picture of the ex-king. MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: LAMBI PAPADOPOULOS

Buchanan awaits divine intervention

As he jets into South Carolina for today's primary, the voice of the Republican right shrugs off this week's reversals — confident that God is on his side



Martin Walker on the campaign trail

Pat Buchanan: cat-loving intellectual

THIRTY thousand feet up in his chartered jet, flying to the primary election to be held in South Carolina today, Pat Buchanan draws a map of the world the way he would see it if he became the next Republican president of the United States. "The British are our closest allies, and even closer American-British relationship is one I'd really maintain and encourage," he says. "You bet I would keep the nuclear relationship over Trident."

have always been a believer in the theory that America's frontier is on the Rhine, that European stability is a vital national interest. If the countries of Europe want to merge into a European Union, "that is their decision. But I sympathise with the other view, which wants to keep the British pound sterling and the French franc and the Deutschmark. A customs union and single market, as Lady Thatcher said, makes more sense than a new united states of Europe as a federal state. "You don't mess with national cultures. That's what these global elites don't understand. That's why they didn't understand the power of my campaign — why they have let me get so far that I'm becoming unstoppable. That's what Calvin Coolidge called celestial intervention — I do believe a lot of this is in God's hands."

from Pope Leo XIII's 1891 encyclical, *Rerum Novarum*, on the duty of the Catholic church to urge capitalism to become more humane. "While I believe in the market system, I don't worship at the altar of economic efficiency and I don't worship a modern corporate culture that boosts profits by closing down our factories — that has no loyalty to its fellow-citizens. People who call him isolationist or protectionist, simply do not know what they are talking about. "I'm all in favour of free trade with compatible commercial partners. When I was in the Reagan White House, I advocated a free-trade area for the US, Britain and Canada. "I'm all for a transatlantic free-trade area, because we have compatible systems, comparable regulations and wage levels, and our trade in religious balance. We fit well and play by the same rules, so that kind of free trade makes sense to me. "I am not isolationist. It is because I want to preserve Nato that I don't favour extending it to central and eastern Europe. That would be a serious mistake for the US as a military power. It is a bridge too far." Pat Buchanan on the stump is one of the most effective demagogues alive. He can jab with precision at every resentment and prejudice of every other angry white male in the country. A devout Catholic and anti-communist, Mr Buchanan in private is a cat-loving intellectual who relishes good Chardonnay and old books. He waves aside the stewardess offering fruit and ice lollies and tries to define his politics by European landmarks. "Churchill, Thatcher, Charles De Gaulle — great leaders, great patriots. They all understood that the nation was what mattered: the focus of allegiance."

£499 TO AUSTRALIA NEXT WINTER? NO PROBLEM.

The new Airtours 96/97 Australia brochure is packed with even more EXTRA SPECIAL holidays for next winter. There are superb single, two, three, and multi-centre holidays featuring New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, Western Australia and Northern Territory. Plus new Fly Drives, Motor, home and touring holidays. Prices start from £499* for 14 nights. (children's prices from £299).

FLY TO SYDNEY FROM GATWICK OR MANCHESTER

PACK UP YOUR FREE COPY OF AIRTOURS AUSTRALIA BROCHURE FOR WINTER 1996/97 AT HOME LOCAL TRAVEL AGENTS OR CALL **01235 824428**

Airtours

Call us for more information

ACT BEFORE 4TH APRIL

M&G now offers you a choice of 3 unit trust funds available through The M&G PEP with no initial charge and no withdrawal fee after 5 years.

- The new M&G Corporate Bond PEP Fund – 7.3% estimated tax-free income* for immediate high income
- The M&G Managed Income PEP Fund – for growing income
- The M&G Managed Growth PEP Fund – for capital growth

The capital value of, and income from, units are not guaranteed.

To: The M&G Group, Bristol BS38 7ET. Please send me details of The M&G PEP range. **NO SALESMAN WILL CALL.**

You should contact your independent financial adviser (if you have one) before investing. The price of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up. The value to you of the tax benefits will depend on your own circumstances. The tax regime of PEPs could change in the future.

Mr/Mrs/Miss	INITIALS	SURNAME
ADDRESS		
POSTCODE		EH-NFAGSJ

M&G does not offer investment advice or offer any recommendations regarding investments. We only market the packaged products and services of the M&G marketing group.

Issued by M&G Financial Services Limited. (Regulated by The Personal Investment Authority.) M&G Unit Trusts are managed by M&G Securities Limited. (Regulated by IMRO and The Personal Investment Authority.)

We never make your name and address available to unconnected organisations. We will occasionally tell you about other products or services offered by ourselves and associated M&G Companies.

Tick the box if you would prefer not to receive this information.

M&G

Managing your money for the longer term

NO INITIAL CHARGE. NO WITHDRAWAL FEE AFTER 5 YEARS. PEP.

For details return the coupon or telephone **(01245) 390 000** (24 hour literature service).

For your security all telephone calls are recorded.

*The estimated gross redemption yield on The M&G Sterling High Interest Fund within The M&G PEP (The M&G Corporate Bond PEP) was 7.3% as at 16th February 1996. At that date the estimated gross distribution yield was 7.5%.

4 BRITAIN

Woman in coma awakes as mother

Blood transfusions save patient in labour from near certain death, writes Sally Weale

A PREGNANT woman who almost died from a rare blood condition after going into labour, awoke from a 10-day coma to be presented with a baby boy. Tracey Dyer had been expecting an uncomplicated delivery when she was admitted to Sunderland General Hospital in Tyne and Wear. In the event she collapsed in the labour ward and underwent three life-saving operations which left her in a coma. She awoke on Valentine's Day to be presented with her 9lb baby, Jordan - her second son - who was safely delivered by forceps. Mrs Dyer's condition, described as an amniotic fluid embolism, affects one in 60,000 people and usually kills. A blood clot forms in the amniotic fluid, which leads

to blood loss and breathing difficulties. Victims usually bleed to death. Mrs Dyer, whose husband Gary remained at her bedside throughout the 10 days she was unconscious, underwent three major pelvic operations in 36 hours to stem the haemorrhage. In one 12-hour period she was given 65 pints of blood and clotting products as her life hung in the balance. Staff at the Regional Blood Transfusion Service worked around the clock to deliver the vast quantities of blood. One delivery was held up by a Newcastle United home game which caused congestion. Yesterday as Mrs Dyer prepared to leave the hospital where she herself was born to be reunited at home with her five-year-old son Josh, she said: "I was completely out of it and didn't

know anything, but it must have been hell for Gary. Now we're all glad the ordeal is over. "All I remember is that I was pushing and pushing and people were telling me to push. After that it is just blank. I knew nothing for 10 whole days. I came round to find I had the most beautiful baby boy. "All I want now is to take Jordan home, have a lovely cup of tea and sit in the house with my two sons," added Mrs Dyer, who lives in Sunderland. The consultant obstetrician, Gavin McNab, said: "We thought we had lost her on more than one occasion. Her survival depended on fantastic teamwork by many groups of staff. All of those who donate blood for transfusion and for the preparation of blood clotting products also deserve a big thanks." A hospital spokesman, Graham Howard, added: "People often don't survive this condition. She's a very lucky lady."



Safe and well... Tracey Dyer and son Jordan in hospital yesterday, ready to go home. During her 10-day coma she received 65 pints of blood in 12 hours. PHOTOGRAPH BY MIKE SCOTT

Cable TV bid for cad's royal story

Edward Pilkington

LIVE TV, the cable television network owned by Mirror Group Newspapers, yesterday made an aggressive bid to buy a kiss-and-tell film being touted by a former lover of the Princess of Wales. James Hewitt, a former cavalry officer dubbed "the cad", with whom the princess admitted having an affair, in her Panorama interview last November, has prepared an hour-long documentary on his relationship with her in the hope of securing a lucrative deal on both sides of the Atlantic. American networks including both CBS and NBC have already expressed interest in buying the film. In Britain, Live TV led the bidding. "Of course we want this story and we will pursue it rigorously," said Nick Ferrari, the network's head of programmes. However, Rupert Murdoch's Sky satellite television network refused to be involved. In a statement, its head of news, Ian Cook, said: "We are concerned that the film's producers would receive large sums of money for an interview in which James Hewitt does not submit himself to independent questioning. We reject this form of journalism and strongly urge other broadcasters to do the same."

However, relations between the princess and Buckingham Palace evidently remained frosty. She was reported to have complained that her husband's side was "playing ping-pong" with her, while her backers accused the palace of "filling the airwaves with press statements". A palace source retorted that Princess Diana's lawyer, Anthony Julius, was guilty of "megaphone diplomacy" after he had warned that a lack of trust between the two sides threatened to scupper the search for a settlement. Mr Hewitt's confessional film was recorded at his home in Devon by a former ITN cameraman, Sebastian Rich. Mr Hewitt is said to have been asked 130 questions on his affair by Anna Pasternak, the author of Princess in Love, which first told Mr Hewitt's story. Princess Diana told Panorama she was "devastated" by the book because she had trusted Mr Hewitt. "A lot of it comes from another world, didn't equate to what happened - there was a lot of fantasy" in that book, she said, while admitting that she had "adored him". Ms Pasternak insisted the film would "not devastate the princess in any way. Mr Hewitt is frank, honest and candid about their physical relationship in the same way as the princess was in her Panorama interview." The shadow Welsh secretary Ron Davies apologised yesterday for giving an interview in which he said the Prince of Wales was not fit to be king because he talks to vegetables and likes blood sports. He made the remarks in an interview recorded before news of the royal divorce, but broadcast by BBC Wales on St David's Day last night.

The BBC dismissed the programme as second rate. The news that Princess Diana's affair is to face exposure on television came as her lawyers reported a breakthrough in negotiations over the divorce. Her media adviser said a reply had finally been received by her lawyers to a letter requesting clarification over the central points of a settlement.

Dr David Starkey, a constitutional historian at the London School of Economics, believes the intimate disclosures of the book changed everything. "When the princess willingly described to Morton, through friends, having had her head down a lavatory pan throwing up a meal, it was as if she had signed for the media a free licence to speculate." Dr Starkey, who gave the Sun the "big in muscle" line, said he saw the expansion of the royal pundit phenomenon as positive. "It shows the country has come of age. We are grown up enough as a nation to look behind the conventions and see how the monarchy really works." Dr Dennis Friedman, author of the Sun's "low self-esteem" sound-bite, was billed by the paper as a "royal psychiatrist" - a label he rejects. He did, however, write a book of what he calls "psycho-history" which used the present and past royal families as its central illustration. He says the experience does not render him an "expert" on royal affairs, as the media would have us believe, but he does feel equipped to comment. For the old guard of royal writers, however, the birth of an entire industry devoted to Windsor-watching is just too ghastly. "I think it's the age we live in," says the Countess of Longford, biographer of Queen Victoria, the Queen Mother and the Queen. "I'm afraid there's no way of stopping it. The only thing the royal family can do is to try and behave a little better."



Princess Diana: frosty relations with palace



James Hewitt: touting his kiss-and-tell film

Field day for the Windsor pundits

Diana has created a media growth industry. Edward Pilkington reports

Dr David Starkey, a constitutional historian at the London School of Economics, believes the intimate disclosures of the book changed everything. "When the princess willingly described to Morton, through friends, having had her head down a lavatory pan throwing up a meal, it was as if she had signed for the media a free licence to speculate."

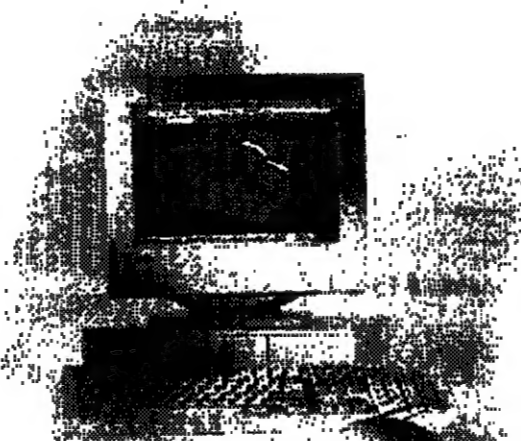
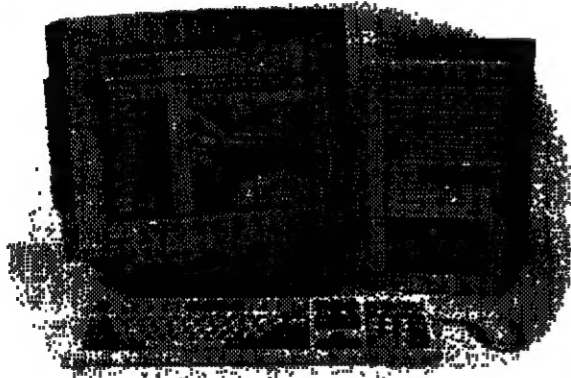
PRINCESS Diana has "such a low self-esteem that she cannot live without adoration", is looking for a new partner "big in muscle, small in brain", and is set to become, in Prince Charles's eyes, "the First Wife from Hell". And that's just what the Sun said. Or more precisely, what a host of "royal historians", "royal authors", and "royal psychiatrists" said in yesterday's issue of the tabloid. Time was - 10 or 20 years ago - that the only people who dared to comment on the royal family were those who had been commissioned to write official biographies. What the royal household did not want known publicly was generally not publicised. Now you cannot move for the column inches dedicated to the instant speculation of "royal experts". To the ranks of veteran royal correspondents have been added an army of commentators to whom the media turns the second the latest royal bombshell explodes. Most royal-watchers agree that the point of no return was the publication in 1992 of Andrew Morton's book, Diana: Her True Story. It appears to have given the media a green light to publish the kind of commentary verging on gossip previously only heard in the local pub.

Dr David Starkey, a constitutional historian at the London School of Economics, believes the intimate disclosures of the book changed everything. "When the princess willingly described to Morton, through friends, having had her head down a lavatory pan throwing up a meal, it was as if she had signed for the media a free licence to speculate." Dr Starkey, who gave the Sun the "big in muscle" line, said he saw the expansion of the royal pundit phenomenon as positive. "It shows the country has come of age. We are grown up enough as a nation to look behind the conventions and see how the monarchy really works." Dr Dennis Friedman, author of the Sun's "low self-esteem" sound-bite, was billed by the paper as a "royal psychiatrist" - a label he rejects. He did, however, write a book of what he calls "psycho-history" which used the present and past royal families as its central illustration. He says the experience does not render him an "expert" on royal affairs, as the media would have us believe, but he does feel equipped to comment. For the old guard of royal writers, however, the birth of an entire industry devoted to Windsor-watching is just too ghastly. "I think it's the age we live in," says the Countess of Longford, biographer of Queen Victoria, the Queen Mother and the Queen. "I'm afraid there's no way of stopping it. The only thing the royal family can do is to try and behave a little better."

Cinema's hundred years seem to have the shape of a life-cycle: an inevitable birth, the steady accumulation of glories, and the onset in the last decade of an irreversible decline Susan Sontag

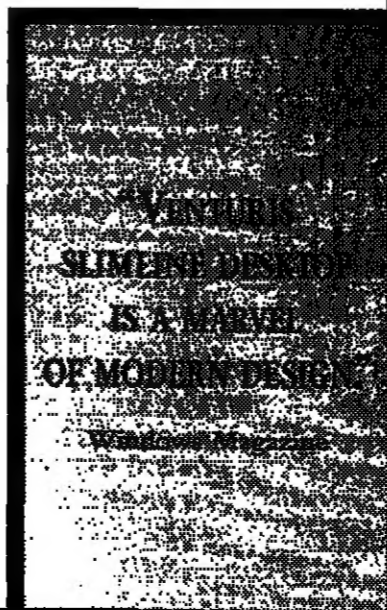
Outlook page 19

If it were a matter of just one good PC review, just one award, we wouldn't think it's worth a whole ad.



But Celebris and Venturis are different.

Just take a moment to read what some of the world's most respected computer publications have to say about the technical excellence and great value for money desktops of a PC company which is less than 3 years old. But then, what would you expect from a company that has been at the leading edge of computer technology for as long as computers themselves have been around. No matter what business you are in, can you afford to ignore the hottest PC's on the market today?



DESIGNED TO RUN WINDOWS 95... AT A COMPETITIVE PRICE... THE CELEBRIS GL 5120... IS IDEAL FOR BUSINESS... 32-BIT APPLICATIONS... PC User

"DESIGNED TO RUN WINDOWS 95... WINDOWS NT, THE CELEBRIS GL 5120... BOASTS A FEATURE PACKED SPECIFICATION WHICH PLACES IT AMONG THE SWIFTEST PCs IN EXISTENCE." PC User

"VENTURIS PERFORMANCE RATES WITH GREAT WINDOWS MARKS WITH TOP GRAPHICS AND HIGH-DISK SCORES." PC Computing

Nat puts Sav Mort

Key issue is whether Aznar wins outright victory

Spain braces for shift to the right

Adela Goesch and John Hooper in Madrid

SPANIARDS are bracing themselves for a revolution in public life if, as predicted, the first conservative government since the return of democracy is elected in tomorrow's general election.

A victory by the right of centre Popular Party (PP) would bring a change of faces and agendas at every level in the bloated state apparatus.

In a final attempt to unite the leftwing vote — split between Socialists and a Communist alliance — the prime minister, Felipe González, told supporters yesterday a rightwing triumph would mean "recalling from modernity and tolerance".

As he spoke, party activists waved banners with the civil war slogan *No pasados* (they shall not pass).

In turn, the PP leader, José María Aznar, told his supporters he was "just a decent man with a forward-looking programme for Spain".

After 13 years in power, Mr González and his Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) are short of ideas and energy. They have lost their way in a maze of corruption scandals.

Mr Aznar, a sober former tax inspector, has run a campaign stressing his personal integrity and determination to clean up government. After three years of focusing public attention on sleaze, the PP leader has wallowed "in the luxury of avoiding personal attacks on the hustings".

The Socialists, meanwhile, have targeted what Spaniards term the "vote of fear", stressing that the PP grew from the authoritarian right embodied by General Franco. Mr González has pointed to a track record that includes preparing the country for entry into Europe in 1986, and taming its traditionally coup-minded armed forces. But these achievements are largely taken for granted by a new generation of voters who have known only democracy.

The prime minister can also claim to have extended the welfare state, and made vast improvements in the country's infrastructure. Yet 1 million more people are without jobs than when he came to power. With unemployment among the under-26s at just over 40 per cent, the PSOE is vulnerable to the impact of first-time voters.

Mr González has not made significant changes to the country's culture of patronage and favouritism and if the

PP wins enough seats to form a government, it too will be in a position to distribute thousands of jobs in the administration and in state-funded companies and institutions.

Mr Aznar has pledged to make more appointments on merit, but he will face the same pressure as his predecessors to reward those who helped him, including allies in the media and business.

The main doubt on the eve of polling was whether the PP could muster enough votes for an outright majority. Otherwise, Mr Aznar would be forced to seek backing from regional nationalists who are wary of the right's centralising traditions.

If he falls just a few seats short of the 176 needed for a majority in the lower house of the Cortes, however, he would have few problems striking deals with some of the smaller regionalist groups. It would be much harder for him to persuade Basque and Catalan nationalists to back his programme.

A key factor in deciding the balance in parliament will be the share of the vote for the United Left, a coalition headed by Julio Anguita, who has concentrated his fire almost exclusively on the PSOE, in an attempt to take over leadership of the left.



Last stand... Prime minister Felipe González waves to supporters at an election rally in Barcelona yesterday. He is expected to lose tomorrow's elections. PHOTOGRAPH ALBERT OLIVE

World news in brief

War crimes tribunal indicts Serb general

THE HAGUE United Nations war crimes tribunal indicted a Serb general yesterday for his role in the shelling of civilians during the 43 months of the Sarajevo siege.

The tribunal's chief prosecutor, Judge Richard Goldstone, said General Djordje Djukic had been responsible for "the planning, preparation and execution of Bosnian Serb military operations". The charge sheet singled out operations in Sarajevo, where it said the Bosnian Serb army had indiscriminately fired on civilian targets.

Gen Djukic is expected to answer the charges on Monday. He has so far refused to co-operate with the tribunal.

On Thursday, the Guardian revealed Gen Djukic's identity as a senior officer in the Serbian-dominated Yugoslav army, which claims to have withdrawn from the Bosnian conflict. The discovery points to continued, secret military links between Serbia and the Bosnian Serbs.

A tribunal spokesman said the detention order on Colonel Aleksa Krsmanovic, a Serb officer who was extradited from Bosnia at the same time as Gen Djukic, would be extended for another month. — *Julian Borger, Sarajevo, Martin Woolacott, Outlook, page 22*

Cuba and US warn exiles

UNITED STATES-based Cuban exiles who want to honour four compatriots who were shot down by Cuban jets last week can hold their memorial service at sea today — as long as they stay out of Cuban waters, Havana said yesterday. But Cuba "will take necessary measures" if foreign boats or planes enter its territory.

Carlos Fernández de Cossío, director of American affairs at the foreign ministry, said.

President Clinton on Thursday ordered the US coastguard to escort the exile flotilla to the site where, on February 24, Cuba shot down two aircraft piloted by exiles. He warned Havana not to interfere, but also warned members of the group not to violate Cuban territory.

Where that site remains in dispute. The Florida-based exile group Brothers to the Rescue says its planes were shot down outside Cuban airspace. Cuba claims the planes were inside its airspace. — *AP, Havana*

Mandela health fear

PRESIDENT Nelson Mandela indicated for the first time yesterday that he might have a health problem, saying he had seen a cardiologist earlier in the day and that doctors wanted to conduct further tests.

Mr Mandela, aged 77, said he would leave today as scheduled for a three-day trip to Mali and Togo.

Rumours that Mr Mandela was in poor health, including one that he had a heart problem, have plagued South Africa's rand currency to plummet in value three times in recent weeks.

Mr Mandela and his office had previously denied any problems, saying the president was completely fit. — *AP, Pretoria*

Indian court snub for Rao

INDIAN supreme court judges yesterday acknowledged fears that politicians may try to sabotage investigations into the country's growing corruption scandal, and warned police to report only to the court.

The ruling could be interpreted as a reprimand to the prime minister, P. V. Narasimha Rao, the direct overseer of the Central Bureau of Investigation which is investigating the \$12 million bribes scandal. The opposition has accused Mr Rao of using the affair to try to eliminate his rivals.

"You will not report to, or receive instructions in this regard, even from the authority who exercises administrative control over your organisation," the special bench of the supreme court told the police. "The CBI will take no instructions or permission, or report to any authority personally interested or likely to be affected by investigations or any accusation."

Meanwhile, the ruling Congress (I) party said yesterday it would give legal aid to politicians accused in the scandal, which centres on illegal foreign exchange dealings. Six politicians, whose arrest was ordered on Thursday, were granted bail yesterday. — *Suzanne Goldenberg, New Delhi*

Nationwide puts customers first.

Savings rates up. Mortgage rates down.

Nationwide is committed to remaining a building society, because we believe that in the long term our customers will be better off if we remain a mutual organisation, concentrating solely on their needs.

We aim to give our customers long term benefits, both in terms of better services and improved rates.

One way we can achieve this is by returning our profits to their rightful

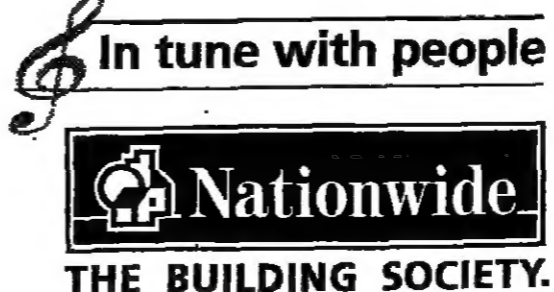
owners. Our members.

We have achieved this by cutting our standard variable mortgage rate by 0.45% to 6.99%, APR 7.2% (variable). This rate will be available to new customers and to existing members from April 1st.

Our personal savings rates were increased on March 1st by an average of 0.25% from their already highly competitive levels.

Proof of our aim to put customers first.

Proof of our commitment to retaining building society values and proof that you are better off if we do.



Example assumes the Society's variable mortgage rate of 6.99% for the term of the mortgage. A couple (male & female, non-smokers, aged 25, applying for a £60,000 endowment mortgage over 25 years on a purchase price of £60,000. Monthly payment £206.79 in year 1-24 net of MIBAS at 15%, APR 7.2% (variable). Total Amount Payable (TAP) £110,161. A typical monthly endowment premium of £64 (variable), 300 mortgage and endowment payments. All interest charges, including VNT (assume that the same applies to both the Society and the borrower), and subsequent fees of £100 are included in the TAP indicated. All mortgages are subject to status and only available to people of 18 years or over. Society is required. All loans for wholly or partial business purposes do not qualify for this offer. For loans exceeding 75% of the purchase price or valuation, whichever is the lower, an additional charge will be made. Nationwide Building Society, Nationwide Life Limited and Nationwide Unit Trust Managers Limited represent only the Nationwide Marketing Group, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for UK assistance, pensions and unit trust products. Nationwide Unit Trust Managers Limited is also regulated by IMRO. Where questions available on request from Nationwide Building Society, Nationwide Home Finance Group, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for UK assistance, pensions and unit trust products. Nationwide Unit Trust Managers Limited is also regulated by IMRO. Where questions available on request from Nationwide Building Society, Nationwide Home Finance Group, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for UK assistance, pensions and unit trust products. Nationwide Unit Trust Managers Limited is also regulated by IMRO. Full details of Nationwide's new UK savings rates were advertised in a statement of national newspapers on 1st March 1996. Nationwide is a member of the Building Societies Ombudsman Scheme and subscribes to the Code of Banking Practice.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Outlook page 17

THE UNITED NATIONS. FIFTY YEARS OLD.

BE ANGRY, BE SAD, BE PASSIONATE. BUT DON'T BE SILENT.

Silence is acceptance. Every year, the world's governments spend £500,000 million to meet their military "needs." And with this grotesque amount, famine, disease and destitution are rarely far behind.

The United Nations was set up to prevent this tragedy from happening. And over the last fifty years at least 150 possible wars have been avoided by its intervention.

But conflict isn't the UN's only concern. The struggle against drugs, pollution and abuse of human rights continues. And grappling with all these problems requires minds and money.

If you feel strongly about these issues and would like to make the UN more effective, join the United Nations Association.

Right now we need active, globally minded people of all ages. Please sign up today.

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete and return to: UNA, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL. For direct debit details please tick box. Membership subscriptions (Please tick the appropriate box). Family @ £20 pa Ordinary @ £15 pa Unwaged @ £8 pa

Name (s) _____
Address _____
Postcode _____ Telephone _____
I enclose a cheque/postal order for £ _____
Please debit my Access/Visa card no: _____
Cardholders Name _____
Expiry date _____

JOIN US AND TURN IDEALS INTO REALITY.

6 WORLD NEWS

Eurocrat's amour: a cautionary tale for Brussels folk

Stephen Bates in Brussels

IT WAS a tale fit to rank with any by John Le Carré or possibly Georges Feydeau — the story of the strait-laced British diplomat, the Russian siren and the US air force pilot.

Throw in their reputed entanglement with Russian gold, a secretive St Petersburg billionaire and — maybe a bit less impressive this — Brussels bureaucracy and it has been irresistible.

The fall this week of Michael Emerson, the high-flying official in question, is a cautionary tale for tens of thousands of Eurocrats working the Brussels honey-pot. Indeed Mr Emerson was the last person anyone would have suspected of being under investigation by the Commission's fraud squad.

Mr Emerson, one of the most senior Britons at the Commission, the man who until a few weeks ago was the European Union's ambassador to Moscow, finally cleared out his desk under a considerable cloud on Wednesday, with the censure that he had acted deplorably ringing in his ears. From the wreckage of his career he had only the consolation of salvaging his sizeable pension, about two thirds of his £100,000 salary.

The charge was that he used his position to set up a private business consultancy to take advantage of EU financial aid to Russia. The ambassador claimed he was merely making legitimate contacts before retirement to establish a new career. The documents against him looked extraordinary but, although the investigation continues, wrongdoing could not be proved.

Mr Emerson, aged 55, an Oxford and Harvard-educated economist, had worked for the Commission for 23 years with a reputation as one of the most boring men in Brussels, but also a man of impeccable rectitude. This may be why he was picked to hand out European reconstruction money in a Russian economy swimming with sharks of awesome ruthlessness.

The EU's money — more than £500 million in the last five years — has been slosh-

ing around Russia, inadequately supervised and the source of much criticism for the laxity of the European Union's controls.

All EU officials sign a contract pledging not to take up outside interests without permission.

Official doubts arose after what appears to have been a Eurocrat's middle-aged fling. Mr Emerson last month left his wife of 30 years for Elena Prokhorova, a Russian woman 15 years his junior. She has close links with Ilye Baskin, a Russian billionaire with whom Mr Emerson hoped to set up in business.

The colonel's vengeance was awesome. He called in the EU's fraud squad

She in turn dumped her American husband, Colonel Marshall Michel III — a former air force combat pilot in Vietnam — whom she married only last August.

Ms Prokhorova is a fluent English speaker, formerly married to a diplomat who is now Russian ambassador to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. She moved to Brussels with the colonel just before Christmas and started a job with a Russian language newsletter, funded by the European Commission.

Last month, while he was in Washington, Col Michel received a fax from his wife announcing that she was leaving him for Mr Emerson: "It grew into friendship, affection and then love. I could not any more be dishonest with myself, loving one man and living with another."

When he returned to Brussels he found that she had hacked into the computer to erase some documents. Unknown to Ms Prokhorova, however, the colonel's computer had a saving mechanism, from which he has recovered documents about his wife's and Mr Emerson's business dealings.

"It has been like living

through a damn movie," says Col Michel. "I am a husband scorned, there's no doubt about it."

The colonel's vengeance was awesome. He read the documents and called in the EU's fraud squad. They called in the Belgian police to investigate possible involvement by the Russian mafia. The police raided the couple's flat and Mr Emerson had to claim diplomatic immunity.

Col Michel claims Ms Prokhorova told him he might become a mafia target. "People that you have only heard that they exist, but they really do" might come and get him.

The documents included a series of letters written by Mr Emerson and Ms Prokhorova, apparently indicating an attempt to set up a business consultancy with Mr Baskin in St Petersburg.

Mr Baskin, aged 36, has made a lot of money in the textile industry in the last five years, after starting from scratch in a basement. So much, he has even helped to fund a Soyuz space probe.

Mr Baskin is also chairman of Consortium Europe-America 500, which is bidding as a consultancy for European funding for new businesses.

The letters include one written by Mr Emerson to Coopers and Lybrand in Moscow discussing methods of payment to an account to be set up on behalf of "our consultancy company" at the Midland International Finance Corporation in Jersey.

There is also a letter from Mr Emerson to Mr Baskin discussing how to handle payments made in gold and silver from the republic of Kirghizia: "My first step would be to go to a director I know at Rothschilds in London. They specialise in the physical handling and trade in precious metals and in arranging related financing."

"This should be preceded of course by direct conversations with the Kirghiz minister of finance or responsible person..."

Mr Emerson returned to Brussels from Moscow, at the end of his five-year posting as head of mission in mid-January. Within a fortnight he was under investigation and requesting early retirement.



Rural idyll... A detail from Corot's Landscape in the Haute Savoie (top), and (left) a self-portrait of the artist, whose works go on show today. PHOTOGRAPHS: BRIDGEMAN ART LIBRARY



Corot exhibition in Paris to test the new trend of viewing art en masse

Paul Webster in Paris

LESS than two months after the great Cézanne retrospective closed at the Grand Palais, a mega-exhibition opens to the public today in the same gallery to mark the 300th anniversary of the birth of Jean-Baptiste Corot.

Unlike Cézanne, the Corot exhibition will miss London, going to Ottawa and New York when it ends here on May 27. But the show will contribute to the argument about the aesthetic value of assembly-line art viewing aimed at attracting at least 500,000 people in Paris alone.

The Corot, which clashes with The Hague's tribute to Johannes Vermeer, is the first European retrospective since a Paris show 60 years ago and the ninth mass viewing devoted to a single artist or period in the French capital in less than four years.

While Corot is unlikely to achieve anything like the record entry figure of 1.5 million for the Barnes collection in 1993, the painter's output and commercial sense fit in well with modern attitudes to artshows. More than 3,200 paintings are credited to him, but he signed so many forgeries there is a joke that 10,000 Corots can be found in the United States.

The Louvre paintings curator, Vincent Pomarède, said there were at least 10 recognised fakes in his museum, which organised the

exhibition, along with Canada's Beaux-Arts Museum and the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art.

"He often signed paintings to authentic work by hard-up friends," the curator said.

Corot was influenced by Poussin and Lorrain before, in his turn, he inspired Pissarro and other Impressionists. He lived off an allowance from his Parisian shopkeeper parents until his work set off what Mr Pomarède called collective madness among collectors from about 1860.

A dozen museums have lent pictures which the organisers say will show Corot was a more versatile artist than his image as a landscaper allows. Many are portraits or nudes.

Book and pay by March 31st



France

for ~~£218~~ £159 ✓

Full marks for Stena

Book early and enjoy unbeatable savings on our car fares to France.

Simply make your reservation and pay in full by the 31st March for travel between 1st April - 19th October 1996.

This offer applies to all our French routes: Dover-Calais, Newhaven-Dieppe and Southampton-Cherbourg.

Car including driver and up to 8 passengers	STANDARD RETURN	5 DAY RETURN
Value Sailings	£218 £159	£244 £89
Peak Sailings	£326 £199	£366 £109

Stena Lynx catamaran supplement £10 per car (car + five). Offer prices are also available for caravans and motorcycles.

New bookings only. All other requirements at full brochure rates. For full terms and conditions of carriage, please refer to the latest edition of the Fast Ferry & Ferry Guide 1996.

To book call us now on **0990 70 70 70** and quote ref: P083 or see your local travel agent or motoring organisation.



The next generation of ferry company.

ope fal

A

Free

In the post-cold war era, the tide is turning from conscription towards smaller, professional forces. David Fairhall reports
Europe falls into step on new model army

FOR DECADES Britain's all-professional armed forces have been out of step with their continental neighbours, all of whom fielded large conscript armies. Not for much longer.

Almost everywhere in Europe, the tide of opinion is turning from "the citizen's army" and towards the British model. The most dramatic example was President Jacques Chirac's declaration last week that France should abandon a conscription tradition dating from the Revolution. The Belgians and Dutch have already done so; Scandinavia is quietly modifying its system, and the Germans may not be far behind.

Among former members of the Warsaw Pact who now look westwards for their security, shrinking budgets and a desire to match the professionalism of United States-led Nato forces are steering similar changes in Russia, where there is no substitute at present for cheap conscript manpower, envious eyes are cast at the efficiency of all-regular forces like the Americans and the British.

native forms of "civic service" never took off. Not so in continental countries with a recent history of devastating invasions by foreign armies, and, in some cases, the rise and fall of a domestic military dictatorship. Against that background it was every citizen's duty to bear arms in defence of his country. And many, wary of the emergence of a new military elite, considered it a right.

With this in mind, post-war Germany self-consciously manufactured the concept of the "citizen in uniform". The citizen (or at any rate the male citizen, because the Bundeswehr does not enlist women) has an obligation to the state which he fulfils by joining the army, the state has a reciprocal obligation to treat its soldiers as citizens — reflected, for example, in the fact that German soldiers are subject to a form of civilian law, not courts martial.

German reunification has increased the perceived importance of this approach.

Kohl is not yet personally persuaded of the need to follow France. Mindful of Germany's history, he warned recently of the danger of creating a state within a state. "I am deeply convinced that in the future, too, our soldiers must really be representative of the entire population," he said. But last week the Frankfurter Allgemeine greeted Mr Chirac's announcement of slimmed down, all-professional forces by 2001 with the comment that "the Bundeswehr's days as a conscript army may be numbered".

For military as well as social reasons, the Scandinavian countries are deeply committed to national service. Their defence strategy is based on rapid territorial mobilisation and there is no immediate prospect of abandoning conscription in Denmark, Norway or Sweden, even though their armies do not need that many men.

"People should feel that defence is part of their lives, not something they just pay for," said one Norwegian naval officer.

some concern by Nato officials. The official explanation is that the Dutch armed forces will be much smaller by the end of the century, but more mobile and more efficient — equipped, for example, with the same Apache attack helicopters the British are buying.

In Italy, conscription has been squeezed by a falling birth rate and a fondness for conscientious objection. The second factor dates from 1989, when the constitutional court ruled that community work done as an alternative to conscription need last no longer than military service. Public support for a switch to all-professional forces has been growing, but at present the aim is to keep 75,000 conscripts.

THE end of direct conscription in France, assuming that parliament approves it, will be both welcomed and deplored, depending on individual experience. The system is often justified as a way of promoting social and racial cohesion, and as a counterweight to the political ambitions of the regular officer corps, but the social cohesion argument does not necessarily hold. Defence officials say that a disproportionate number of the 84,000 young Frenchmen exempted last year were graduates from middle-class families.

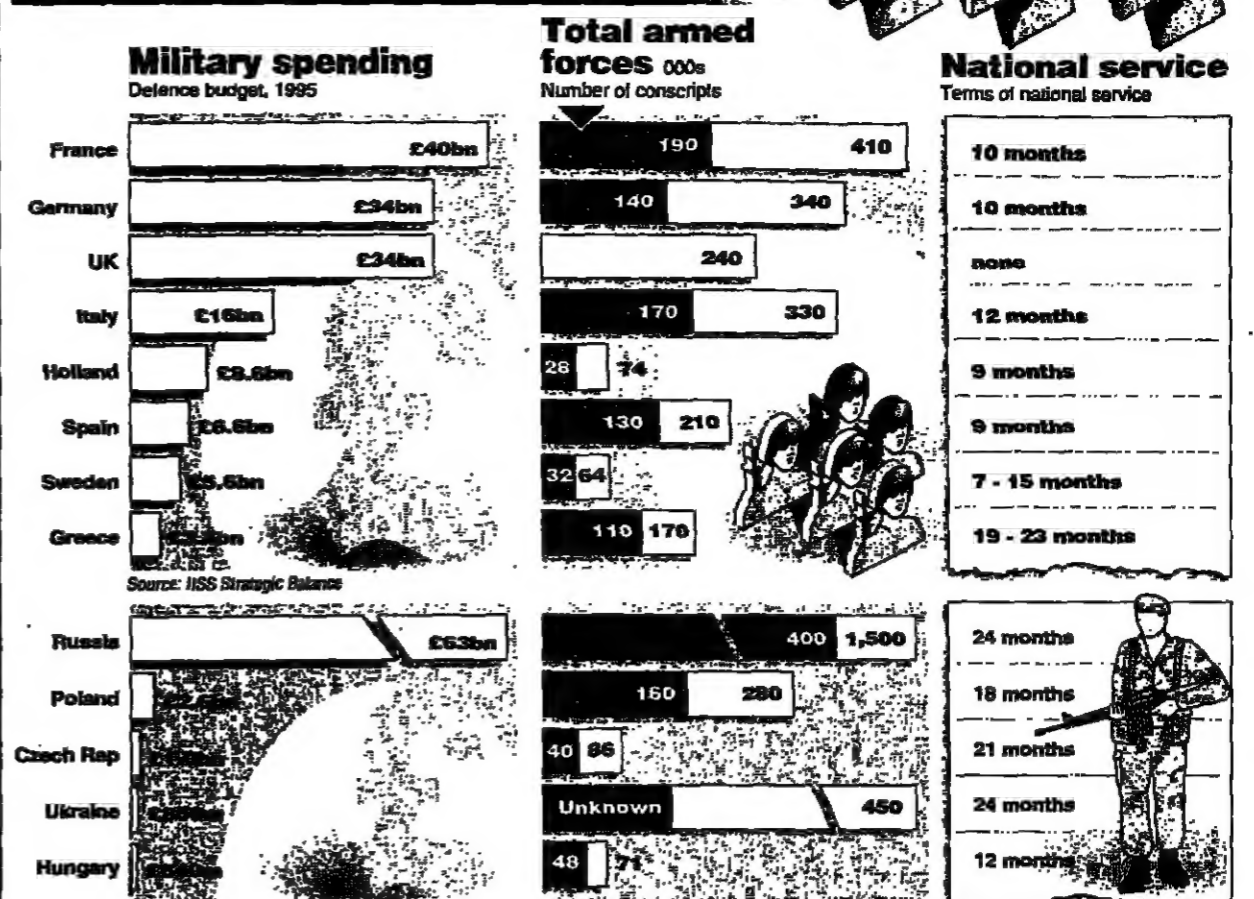
Young French recruits, like British national servicemen, often see their military stint as a wasteful interruption of civilian careers, offering no worthwhile work experience.

"I spent a year on a switchboard listening to the secret lives of defence ministry civil servants. It was extremely boring," Marc, a bank official aged 22, said. Rashid, aged 18, from a poor suburb, said: "I was sent to the German border as a squaddie and spent a lot of time in the glasshouse. I'm still out of work."

But some are happier. Yannick, a civil engineer aged 25, said: "I volunteered for the para and went to Bosnia. I'm going to sign on."

Having taken the initiative, Mr Chirac hopes a public debate will begin on an alternative form of civic service for men and women, which might or might not be voluntary.

Doing time across the continent



Among the Nato allies, only Greece is bucking the trend. The recent humiliation by Turkish commandos in the Aegean has heightened the Greek military's sense of insecurity. Conscientious objectors are not offered alternative community service; they serve four years in jail. The hardline defence minister, Gerassimos Arsenis, wants to toughen the rules to make it more difficult for students to defer their service.

If Britain is debating the return of national service today, much of the argument would probably be couched in depressingly narrow terms: How much would it cost the taxpayer? Could it be used to massage the unemployment figures, coincidentally providing healthy activity and a taste of discipline for work-shy football hooligans?

Opponents would see it as a sinister form of social control designed to inculcate a military ethos. Today's youngsters need real jobs, they would argue, not square-bashing.

In fact, public debate on this issue in Britain more or less died with the end of national service in the early 1960s. The military establishment did not want a return to conscription, and that professional judgment went largely unchallenged. Ideas for alter-



Drafting conscripts from the eastern hinterland in the Bundeswehr is seen as another way of educating them in democracy. But as the size of the armed forces shrinks and the anxieties of the cold war fade, Germany too is beginning to waver and to worry.

But practice is a different matter. The Danish system works in a highly selective and largely voluntary fashion, with some conscripts serving only four or five months. Sweden is adopting a similar approach, cutting back on defence to the dismay of the military establishment, and now making only about half the eligible conscripts.

The Netherlands, which has close military ties with Britain, drafted its last conscripts at the end of January. By the end of the year, its armed forces will consist entirely of volunteers. The intention to abolish conscription was announced in 1993, but the plan has been accelerated — a move viewed with

likely to signal an end to conscription, which lasts for two years — six months longer than in Russia. Like Russia, Ukraine is lumbered with a huge, disgruntled officer corps, many of whom have nowhere to live, and keeping them supplied with raw teenage manpower is cheaper and easier than setting up a smaller professional army.

Trying to run a US-scale military machine on an Italian-sized military budget, Moscow cannot afford the ultra-mobile, high-tech professional forces it needs to fulfill the commitments it has set itself — defending its immense borders, keeping military bases in the "near abroad", and posturing against China and Nato. So the draft will continue.

The financial straits of the post-communist countries mean that professionalised, well-equipped and well-paid armies are a long way off. And the draft will continue to mop up the armies of unemployed youths.

Winds of change fail to blow away call-up in former Soviet bloc

Financial straits and high unemployment have kept conscription, write Ian Traynor and James Meek

ACROSS the former Soviet bloc, the collapse of communism and the evaporation of the Warsaw Pact have thrown the once-powerful military into crisis, turmoil and humiliation. Defence spending and military morale have tumbled.

Conscript armies remain the rule, despite wishful thinking about emulating the United States and British professional models, but there has been a collapse in the numbers of recruits and soaring draft-dodging rates. And even those accepting the draft are less than urgently required.

Ukrainian conscripts reporting for national service at the end of last year got the best Christmas present they could have imagined — they were sent home. The poverty-stricken Ukrainian military — fielding Europe's second-largest army even after drastic cuts, and struggling to find a role between Russia and a proposed bigger Nato — acknowledged that there was no point in feeding and training draftees until it knew what it wanted to do with them.

In central Europe, defence reviews, adaptation, and rows over resources are the order of the day as

likely to signal an end to conscription, which lasts for two years — six months longer than in Russia. Like Russia, Ukraine is lumbered with a huge, disgruntled officer corps, many of whom have nowhere to live, and keeping them supplied with raw teenage manpower is cheaper and easier than setting up a smaller professional army.

Free at Boots

Free Cosmetic Bag with every two No7 purchases.
 Cosmetic Bag contains Superlash Mascara Brown/Black, Precision Brow Definer Brown/Black and Super Gentle Eye Make-up Remover 30ml.

No7

Someone Cares

Offer available in most Boots stores from 21st February until 19th March 1996. Subject to availability.

WANTED, STUDENTS WHO'D LIKE TO LEAVE COLLEGE WITH MORE THAN JUST GOOD GRADES

ARMY OFFICERS
 BE THE BEST

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 POSTCODE: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____

8 SPORTS NEWS

Racing

Maguire and Williamson miss Festival

Keel Oliver

LUCKLESS Norman Williamson and Adrian Maguire will miss the Cheltenham Festival which begins on Tuesday week.

Williamson incurred a dislocated shoulder for the second time at Newbury last month when returning to race riding after breaking his right leg at Sedgfield in October. It was only on Thursday that he was given clearance to ride again from a specialist in shoulder injuries.

Under a new recommendation introduced by the Jockey Club medical advisor, Michael Tunstall, jockeys who dislocate the same bone twice should have an operation.

"It's a bit more than a setback - it is very, very grim," said Williamson. "It happened when I was in the centre of a pile-up with my mount, Smiling Chief, slipped up in the novice handicap chase.



Williamson... out for season

Dunwoody before making arrangements for Alderbrook in the Champion Hurdle. Dunwoody, who gave the champion hurdler such a brilliant training ride when parting the seven-year-old for the first time at Kempton last Saturday, said: "I've been asked to ride Alderbrook, but I've not been able to say yes or no at the moment."

Dextra Dove can put his former jockey in the training big time

Ron Cox

DEXTRA DOVE, Simon Earle's last winner in the saddle, can provide the former jockey with his first major training success at Doncaster today in the post-poned Great Yorkshire Chase. What a horse for a rookie trainer to have in his first season, Dextra Dove had won seven races on the bounce prior to his narrow defeat at Newbury last time, and a tilt at the Martell Grand National beckons if the grey can get back to winning ways.

The postponement of the Great Yorkshire is a bonus for the connections of Toogood To Be True, who would have had to miss the original January date owing to a bruised foot. Reported in good shape now, Tim Eastbury's eight-year-old comes well on the reckoning on his neck second to Smiths Band at Haydock.

morlaye-based trainer, is always to be respected on his British raids and he found a soft race for Ciel de Brion over hurdles at Fontwell last month. The six-year-old, who will be ridden by the trainer's son Thierly, has shown smart form over fences in France, including a victory over Camitrov, who went on to finish third in last season's Arkle Chase.

Newbury with form for the televised events

- 1.00 Emerald Handicap
1.30 City of Dishes
2.00 New Jockey Club
2.30 The Reverend Bart
2.45 Golden Squire
3.00 Greenwell Chase
4.10 Ringfield

BBC-1

- 1.00 NEWBURY HANDICAP CHASE
1.30 THE REVEREND BART
2.00 NEW JOCKEY CLUB
2.30 THE REVEREND BART
2.45 GOLDEN SQUIRE
3.00 GREENWELL CHASE
4.10 RINGFIELD

BBC-1

- 1.30 NORTH STYMONTON HANDICAP CHASE
1.55 THE REVEREND BART
2.00 NEW JOCKEY CLUB
2.30 THE REVEREND BART
2.45 GOLDEN SQUIRE
3.00 GREENWELL CHASE
4.10 RINGFIELD

BBC-1

- 2.00 LAURENCE HANDICAP
2.30 THE REVEREND BART
2.45 GOLDEN SQUIRE
3.00 GREENWELL CHASE
4.10 RINGFIELD

Wolverhampton tonight (All-weather Flat)

- 7.00 Ebony Bay
7.30 Miss Offord
8.00 Emerald

Doncaster with TV form

- 1.00 Emerald Handicap
1.30 City of Dishes
2.00 New Jockey Club
2.30 The Reverend Bart
2.45 Golden Squire
3.00 Greenwell Chase
4.10 Ringfield

- 1.55 FARBOROUGH HANDICAP CHASE
2.30 THE REVEREND BART
2.45 GOLDEN SQUIRE
3.00 GREENWELL CHASE
4.10 RINGFIELD

- 2.00 LAURENCE HANDICAP
2.30 THE REVEREND BART
2.45 GOLDEN SQUIRE
3.00 GREENWELL CHASE
4.10 RINGFIELD

- 2.00 LAURENCE HANDICAP
2.30 THE REVEREND BART
2.45 GOLDEN SQUIRE
3.00 GREENWELL CHASE
4.10 RINGFIELD

Doncaster with TV form

- 1.00 Emerald Handicap
1.30 City of Dishes
2.00 New Jockey Club
2.30 The Reverend Bart
2.45 Golden Squire
3.00 Greenwell Chase
4.10 Ringfield

- 1.55 FARBOROUGH HANDICAP CHASE
2.30 THE REVEREND BART
2.45 GOLDEN SQUIRE
3.00 GREENWELL CHASE
4.10 RINGFIELD

- 2.00 LAURENCE HANDICAP
2.30 THE REVEREND BART
2.45 GOLDEN SQUIRE
3.00 GREENWELL CHASE
4.10 RINGFIELD

- 2.00 LAURENCE HANDICAP
2.30 THE REVEREND BART
2.45 GOLDEN SQUIRE
3.00 GREENWELL CHASE
4.10 RINGFIELD

Doncaster with TV form

- 1.00 Emerald Handicap
1.30 City of Dishes
2.00 New Jockey Club
2.30 The Reverend Bart
2.45 Golden Squire
3.00 Greenwell Chase
4.10 Ringfield

- 1.55 FARBOROUGH HANDICAP CHASE
2.30 THE REVEREND BART
2.45 GOLDEN SQUIRE
3.00 GREENWELL CHASE
4.10 RINGFIELD

- 2.00 LAURENCE HANDICAP
2.30 THE REVEREND BART
2.45 GOLDEN SQUIRE
3.00 GREENWELL CHASE
4.10 RINGFIELD

- 2.00 LAURENCE HANDICAP
2.30 THE REVEREND BART
2.45 GOLDEN SQUIRE
3.00 GREENWELL CHASE
4.10 RINGFIELD

- 2.00 LAURENCE HANDICAP
2.30 THE REVEREND BART
2.45 GOLDEN SQUIRE
3.00 GREENWELL CHASE
4.10 RINGFIELD

Doncaster with TV form

- 1.00 Emerald Handicap
1.30 City of Dishes
2.00 New Jockey Club
2.30 The Reverend Bart
2.45 Golden Squire
3.00 Greenwell Chase
4.10 Ringfield

- 1.55 FARBOROUGH HANDICAP CHASE
2.30 THE REVEREND BART
2.45 GOLDEN SQUIRE
3.00 GREENWELL CHASE
4.10 RINGFIELD

- 2.00 LAURENCE HANDICAP
2.30 THE REVEREND BART
2.45 GOLDEN SQUIRE
3.00 GREENWELL CHASE
4.10 RINGFIELD

- 2.00 LAURENCE HANDICAP
2.30 THE REVEREND BART
2.45 GOLDEN SQUIRE
3.00 GREENWELL CHASE
4.10 RINGFIELD

Warwick

- 1.45 Sea Providence
2.30 Jacob's Wife
2.50 Pat of Gales
3.30 Turp
3.50 Mignon
4.20 Double Six
4.55 Turn The Grey

Warwick

- 1.45 WATERLOO HANDICAP CHASE
2.30 JACOB'S WIFE
2.50 PAT OF GALES
3.30 TURP
3.50 MIGNON
4.20 DOUBLE SIX
4.55 TURN THE GREY

Warwick

- 2.20 EASTVALE HANDICAP CHASE
2.30 JACOB'S WIFE
2.50 PAT OF GALES
3.30 TURP
3.50 MIGNON
4.20 DOUBLE SIX
4.55 TURN THE GREY

Warwick

- 2.50 CHORLEWICK HANDICAP CHASE
2.30 JACOB'S WIFE
2.50 PAT OF GALES
3.30 TURP
3.50 MIGNON
4.20 DOUBLE SIX
4.55 TURN THE GREY

Warwick

- 3.20 BERRYTON HANDICAP CHASE
2.30 JACOB'S WIFE
2.50 PAT OF GALES
3.30 TURP
3.50 MIGNON
4.20 DOUBLE SIX
4.55 TURN THE GREY

Warwick

- 3.50 BLACKDOWN HANDICAP CHASE
2.30 JACOB'S WIFE
2.50 PAT OF GALES
3.30 TURP
3.50 MIGNON
4.20 DOUBLE SIX
4.55 TURN THE GREY

Warwick

- 4.20 TOWN OF WARWICK HANDICAP CHASE
2.30 JACOB'S WIFE
2.50 PAT OF GALES
3.30 TURP
3.50 MIGNON
4.20 DOUBLE SIX
4.55 TURN THE GREY

Warwick

- 4.55 WESTON HANDICAP CHASE
2.30 JACOB'S WIFE
2.50 PAT OF GALES
3.30 TURP
3.50 MIGNON
4.20 DOUBLE SIX
4.55 TURN THE GREY

Warwick

- 5.00 WESTON HANDICAP CHASE
2.30 JACOB'S WIFE
2.50 PAT OF GALES
3.30 TURP
3.50 MIGNON
4.20 DOUBLE SIX
4.55 TURN THE GREY

Warwick

- 5.30 WESTON HANDICAP CHASE
2.30 JACOB'S WIFE
2.50 PAT OF GALES
3.30 TURP
3.50 MIGNON
4.20 DOUBLE SIX
4.55 TURN THE GREY

Warwick

- 5.30 WESTON HANDICAP CHASE
2.30 JACOB'S WIFE
2.50 PAT OF GALES
3.30 TURP
3.50 MIGNON
4.20 DOUBLE SIX
4.55 TURN THE GREY

RACELINE FULL RESULTS SERVICE 091 103 103

Man sound SOUND MAN has been put back into the Queen Mother Champion Chase...

ards t

sion play w

bank tax bill boost Benn

RUGBY UNION: FIVE NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP

Scotland v England at Murrayfield

Richards to snuff out Grand Slam flame

Robert Armstrong in Edinburgh

ENJOYMENT is not a word normally associated with Calcutta Cup matches, which tend to be grim, chaotic confrontations settled by penalty goals. Yet Jack Rowell believes otherwise, even though his players are determined to deny Scotland a Grand Slam at Murrayfield today.

The England manager maintains that, provided his team take pleasure in their individual skills and relish the occasion, they will play to their full potential. It is a novel concept that will be tested to the limit, and probably beyond, by their confident, streetwise hosts, players who represent the twin faces of Scottish rugby. Fast-rucking improvisers on the one hand, frustrating destroyers on the other, Rob Wainwright's ambitious men have set the Five Nations Championship alight with a distinctive style that threatens to repeat the clean sweep of trophies achieved by the Scots in 1994 and 1990.

losing side against Scotland. He revels in a mauling game down the touchlines but his recall does not necessarily signify that England will abandon an expansive style. As Jeremy Guscott pointed out yesterday: "Having Deano in the side means the right ball will be released, better ball presented and delivered. His comeback allows Ben Clarke to switch to what many people believe is his best position, blindside flanker."

What the Scots fear most is domination by a well-drilled England pack that can develop a measured rhythm. The more disruption Wainwright, Smith and Peters can foster in the back row, the better their chances of forging the off-the-cuff links with the playmaker Townsend that destroyed France at Murrayfield last month.

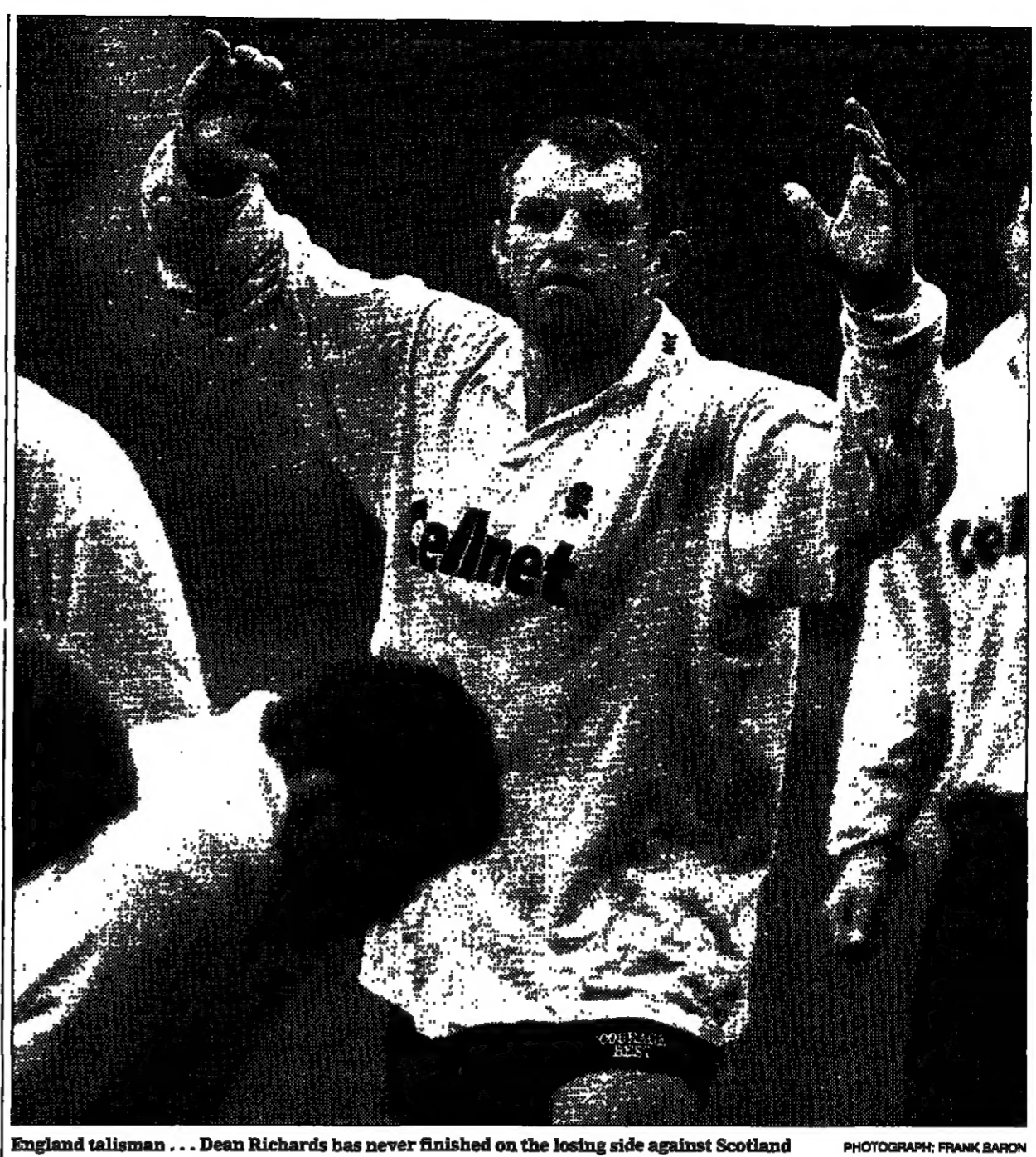
Richards stands four-square between the Scots and the mayhem they love to exploit and Rowell makes no apology for recalling him. "We have to take the ball forward in the hand and we're seeking to involve all 15 players," he declared. "The traditional Five Nations style will not win us the next World Cup. We have needed to make changes and we're making the best use of the talent available."

Scotland's manager Jim Telfer, meanwhile, has been talking up the opposition, reminding everyone that England have won three Grand Slams since 1990 and suggesting that they now have the strongest squad in the northern hemisphere. Ignoring the tidal wave of nationalist hype sweeping the country, his team yesterday applied some technical polish to aspects of their play during yesterday's final training session at Borroughmuir. The cool-headed Wainwright later attempted to damp down speculation that he will lead his team out in a slow walk as David Sole did in 1990. "The emotional and confrontational aspects will be addressed in the dressing room before the game," he said. "There was only one team that walked on and that was six years ago. It's history now and we don't have to emulate those events. Teams run on to the pitch 999 times out of 1,000."

significantly they tend to come when bigger prizes are also at stake. Scott Hastings, who today equals the Scottish record of 81 caps by his brother Gavin, is the only survivor from the 1990 Grand Slam side but his experience, not to mention his coltish enthusiasm this season, could make him an important catalyst. England lack experience. Only Carling, Underwood and Guscott remain from the 1990 debacle and the return of Richards has overshadowed the selection of a new cap, the Bristol lock Garath Archer. Seven other England players will be making their first Murrayfield appearance but none will need reminding that they can still win the Triple Crown and the Five Nations Championship.

The unaccustomed role of underdog suits Carling's mixture of senior pros and youthful tyros, while one detects a whiff of unease in the Scottish camp about being favourites. If Scotland do complete the Grand Slam, it will be arguably a greater triumph than that achieved in 1990 when their line-up was studded with mature, accomplished players such as Sole, Milne, Jeffrey, White, Calder and the Hastings brothers. The current team, having played the most sparkling football in the Five Nations, still have a way to go before they realise their full potential. Campbell, Townsend, Shepherd, Joiner and Redpath are still developing.

No doubt the England backs coaches, Les Cusworth and Mike Slemen, have identified weaknesses in the Scottish line-up that others have failed to exploit. The crucial question is whether they can translate that analysis into a winning game plan for Carling's men. One suspects that England have done their homework well enough to merit a seventh successive victory over the Scots, probably by a margin of 10 to 13 points.



England talisman... Dean Richards has never finished on the losing side against Scotland. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

Murrayfield teams

Table listing the line-ups for Scotland and England for the match at Murrayfield. It includes player names, positions, and jersey numbers.

Ireland v Wales at Lansdowne Road

Passion play with a cast desperate for a successful long run

David Fitzmaurice in Dublin

AFTER Wales had lost to New Zealand in the World Cup last year Alex Evans, then their temporary coach, said his adopted country would continue to struggle as long as it relied on fire and passion instead of skill and strength. Four days later Wales crashed out of the competition, losing to Ireland with a performance which not only lacked skill but had little fire and far less passion.

Evans returned to his native Australia believing Wales' salvation lay with uncorrupted youth. He would empathise with the plight of the Ireland coach Murray Kidd who is trying, unsuccessfully so far, to harness the traditional energy of the Irish into something more substantial. Kidd has two remaining matches this season to convince the Irish Rugby Football Union that it is worth extending his one-year contract and, ironic though it may be, the future of the New Zealander could well depend on how much fire and passion the Ireland players generate today in what has become the traditional wooden spoon decider: the losers of this fixture have finished bottom of the championship in seven of the last eight years.

The record of Ireland and Wales over the past 10 years is poor with only 22 wins between them in 84 matches; nine of those came against each other. Ireland have won only two home championship matches out of 13 this decade while Wales' only successes in 13 games on the road came in Dublin in 1983 and 1994. Later, whereas Kidd is under pressure, Kevin Bowring is basking in the glory of enhanced performances, even if "L" still predominates in the results column. "Kevin has a four-year contract and can think more of the long-term," said Kidd. "My future depends on this championship campaign, so beating Wales is very important. That said, the message I have been trying to get across is that Ireland have to stop putting short-term gain ahead of long-term success. Ireland's story this decade is of one-off performances interrupting a flow of defeats. Relying on fire and passion may get you the occasional result but it will not make us world-beaters. We have to marry the traditional Irish rugby with a lot of skill but it is bound to take time."

Kidd maintains he wants to see a fast and fluid game today but he is aware that will suit Wales, who, under Bowring, have rediscovered the virtues of speed and support play which made them irresistible a generation ago. Naivety has been Wales' essential weakness this season now that their ball-winning capacity and handling ability behind the scrum have improved, and their lack of experience in key areas could allow Ireland to drag them down to their level. Blundell is a specialist disciplinarian. He will certainly be hoping to avoid the sort of high-speed accident which befell Mansell practising for his oval-track debut and resulted in the then F1 champion being taken to hospital with serious back injuries. "Coming to terms with a track where you are covering 1 1/2 miles in 27 seconds is a completely new ball game," said Blundell. "At the moment I feel that the car is in control of me, rather than the other way round, but this is part of the learning curve. I expect to be more at home on the road courses and, by the middle of the season, I am not scoring points, then I won't be happy. I must start paying the team back with results by the middle of the year."

Blundell's only regret is that he will not take part in the Indianapolis 500 in May. This year's Memorial Day classic is being staged for the rival Indy Racing League competitors while the leading IndyCar teams will contest the US 500 race in Michigan on the same day. Old Loughnionians, who play twice this weekend, should move back into the top four by taking points off Barford Tigers and St Albans but the other title contenders have tough games. Cannock play the champions Teddington, who have beaten them four successive times; Southgate, one point clear, travel to Canterbury, who held them to a draw last year; while Reading are at East Grinstead. Seeston, 11 points clear in the second division, could well be crowned champions tomorrow, though Bromley, their opponents, handed them their heaviest ever league defeat (5-0) last year. The women's National League looks to lie between the joint leaders Sutton and Hightown, who meet at Forbury on March 16. Today in hand, visit Clifton while Sutton entertain Ipswich.

Blundell is a specialist disciplinarian. He will certainly be hoping to avoid the sort of high-speed accident which befell Mansell practising for his oval-track debut and resulted in the then F1 champion being taken to hospital with serious back injuries. "Coming to terms with a track where you are covering 1 1/2 miles in 27 seconds is a completely new ball game," said Blundell. "At the moment I feel that the car is in control of me, rather than the other way round, but this is part of the learning curve. I expect to be more at home on the road courses and, by the middle of the season, I am not scoring points, then I won't be happy. I must start paying the team back with results by the middle of the year."

Lansdowne Road teams

Table listing the line-ups for Ireland and Wales for the match at Lansdowne Road. It includes player names, positions, and jersey numbers.

Boxing

Eubank tax bill to boost Benn

Kevin Mitchell THE prospect of Nigel Benn fighting Curtis Eubank for a third time strengthened on the eve of Benn's 10th defence of his World Boxing Council super-middleweight title against Thulane "Sugar Boy" Malinga in Newcastle tonight. Eubank, the former World Boxing Organisation champion at 12 stone, retired after his second defeat by the Irishman Steve Collins but the burden of a £2 million tax bill, plus a writ from Frank Warren demanding \$126,640 (about \$84,000) in VAT money, is almost certain to force his hand. Officially Eubank stands by his decision to leave the sport he claimed to loathe; privately it is understood he has inquired about the possibility of a fight with Benn - especially in light of the prospect of pay-per-view revenue playing an increasingly prominent part in the funding of boxing. Benn said last week he would welcome a deciding match with Eubank - the score is 1-0 to Eubank with one drawn - so, given the boxers' willingness, all that remains is a minefield of competing promotional interests. Benn fights for Warren and Sky whereas Eubank made his fortune with Sky but his erstwhile promoter Barry

Rugby League

Super League games called off

Paul Fitzpatrick THE cancellation of a series of Super League exhibition games in Australia this weekend has defused a potentially explosive situation in the battle, now almost a year old, between the Australian Rugby League and Rupert Murdoch's breakaway Super League. These matches could have constituted contempt of court by the rebel clubs, who were this week ordered by a Sydney judge to return to the ARL Super League was ruled illegal and ordered, in the form of a temporary injunction, not to start its breakaway competition. Super League believes it has "substantial grounds for appeal" against this judgment and is also seeking a stay of the court's orders. That action brings the rival parties back to court next Wednesday. Brisbane Broncos, Australia's most powerful club, had planned to play the Canberra Raiders at their ANZ stadium. Other matches were between North Queensland and Western Reds, Canterbury and Cronulla, and Auckland Warriors and Penrith. The only two Super League clubs not involved were the Hunter Mariners and Adelaide Rams, two newly formed clubs who must be wondering if they will ever play a game.

Motor Racing

Blundell on Indy learning curve

Alan Henry MARK BLUNDELL will set out tomorrow to match Nigel Mansell when he is thrown into the deep end of the IndyCar pool. The prestigious American race, now almost a year old, is the Grand Prix of Miami on the 1 1/2-mile banked oval track at Homestead. Driving a British-built Reynard-Ford for the highly regarded PacWest team, Blundell will be hoping to match Mansell, who won the IndyCar Championship in his first year, in 1993. The 29-year-old from Royston, who was dropped from this season's McLaren-Mercedes line-up in favour of the former Williams driver David Coulthard, was unable to secure an alternative Formula One drive and has decided his professional future lies in the United States. Blundell is teamed alongside a fellow F1 refugee Mauricio Gugelmin, the Brazilian who drove for the Leyton House and Jordan teams between 1988 and 1992. "I would never say never but I will admit that F1 is no longer in my head," said Blundell, who finished tenth in last year's world championship. "I don't feel I really had anything left to prove on this [the European] side of the Atlantic. This is an opportunity I have to make the best of and I'm looking forward to a strong season. With the first two rounds of the IndyCar Championship taking place on oval circuits, Blundell is acclimatising gently to a specialised discipline. He will certainly be hoping to avoid the sort of high-speed accident which befell Mansell practising for his oval-track debut and resulted in the then F1 champion being taken to hospital with serious back injuries. "Coming to terms with a track where you are covering 1 1/2 miles in 27 seconds is a completely new ball game," said Blundell. "At the moment I feel that the car is in control of me, rather than the other way round, but this is part of the learning curve. I expect to be more at home on the road courses and, by the middle of the season, I am not scoring points, then I won't be happy. I must start paying the team back with results by the middle of the year."

Sports Betting

Punters underwhelmed by the Chancellor's tax cut

Julian Turner KENNETH CLARKE's knight new era in bookmakers' shops opened yesterday as tax came down a point to the new rate of 9 per cent. Tax makes a big difference to a bet, so any reduction has to be welcomed. But sports bettors could be forgiven for feeling underwhelmed. The truth is that "tax" is a pretty loose concept. Punters pay 9p on every pound they stake but few realise that less than 7.5p of that reaches the Treasury. The rest is supposed to be paid by the book-

Hockey

Guildford like look of run-in

Pat Rowley GUILDFORD, fifth behind Cannock, Old Loughnionians, Reading and Southgate for most of the season, travel to Stourport tomorrow with their sights on following last season's HA Cup title with their first National League title. Currently in third place, Guildford are holding together well and have collected 10 points from their last four games. After tomorrow's visit to the bottom club two of their final three games are against other relegation-threatened sides. Old Loughnionians, who play twice this weekend, should move back into the top four by taking points off Barford Tigers and St Albans but the other title contenders have tough games. Cannock play the champions Teddington, who have beaten them four successive times; Southgate, one point clear, travel to Canterbury, who held them to a draw last year; while Reading are at East Grinstead. Seeston, 11 points clear in the second division, could well be crowned champions tomorrow, though Bromley, their opponents, handed them their heaviest ever league defeat (5-0) last year. The women's National League looks to lie between the joint leaders Sutton and Hightown, who meet at Forbury on March 16. Today in hand, visit Clifton while Sutton entertain Ipswich.

10 SPORTS NEWS

to flies
the wind

Soccer

Richard Williams looks at the kid-glove treatment that could reap dividends for Manchester United in Monday's title showdown at Newcastle

Fergie fledglings keep red flag flying

On a dark, wet winter's night three years ago I sat in the main stand at Gigg Lane, Bury, and watched Alex Ferguson's reserves struggle through the clinging mud, failing to get a result against the bigger and more experienced Leicester City "stiffs".

'At this place you never know with young players. A boy needs character to succeed here'

Donaghy, Schmeichel, Webb, Ince, Pallister, Irwin, Kanchelskis and Keane, now Ferguson could allow the club's own talent to come through.

Young players have had a special priority at Old Trafford since the days of Duncan Edwards and the Busby Babes. "We've always worked particularly hard at it here. That particular youth team of the early Nineties represented a high point in terms of intensity: we managed to get a group of players together from different parts of the country, and they became a team. And now you can look back and say that there were one or two decent players, talented boys who've gone on to make useful careers for themselves elsewhere, who couldn't get much of a look-in."

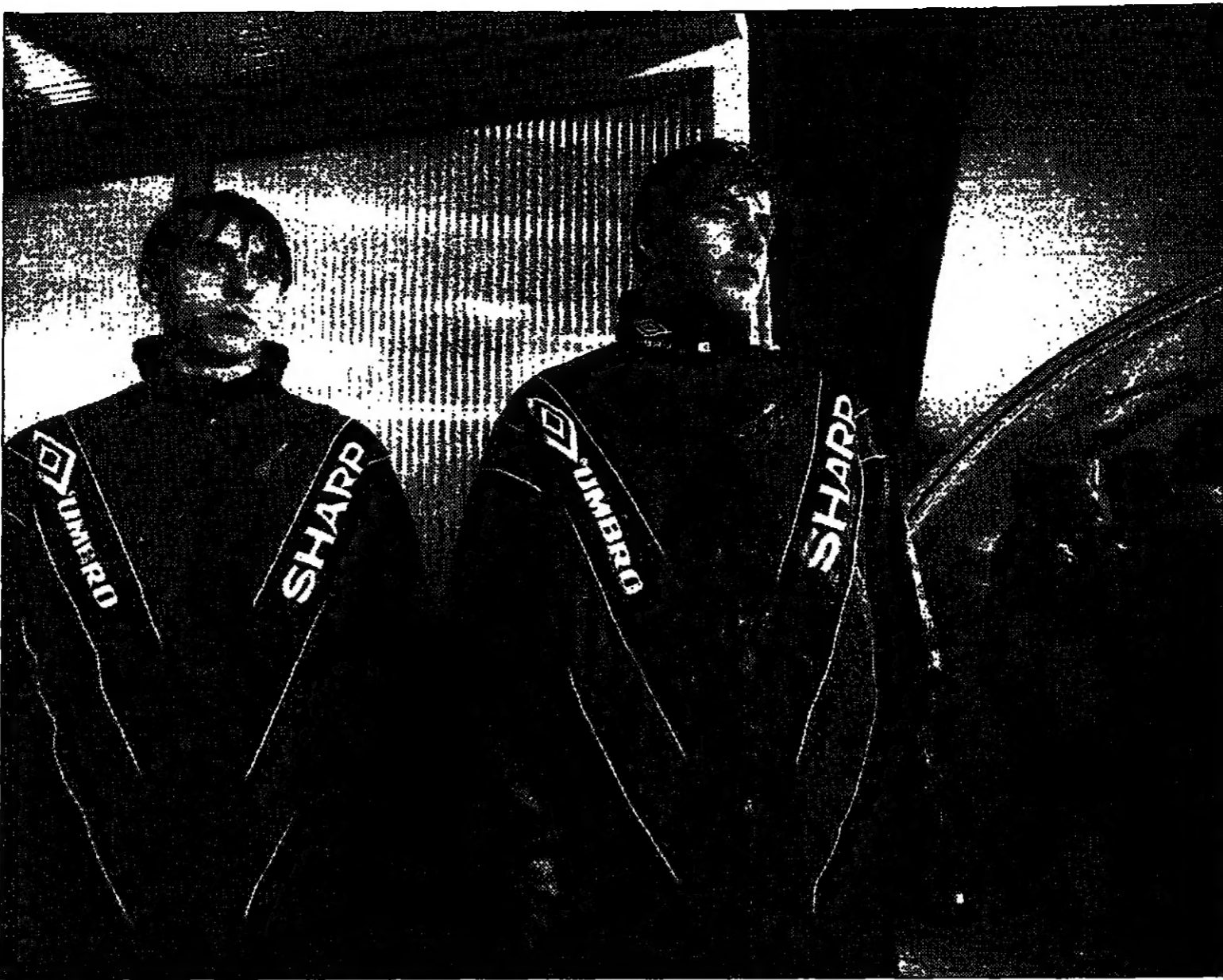
It was instructive to get out the team sheet from that reserve match in the early weeks of 1993 and see, alongside Scholes, Beckham and Neville (and the more experienced players Les Sealey, Lee Martin and Danny Wallace) a clutch of less familiar names. Ferguson described the destinies of the seven who had not made it into his first team.

"George Switzer? We knew his height would be against him. He went to Darlington, and now he's with Hyde. A popular boy, the kind it breaks your heart to let go. Kieran Toal - a very intelligent boy. He had a bad injury, went to Doncaster, had another injury and now he's studying law at university. Brian Carey went to Leicester for a quarter of a million. Patrick McGibbon is still playing centre-half in our reserves. Simon Davies is in the reserves. Craig Lawton broke his leg and went to Port Vale. Still there, doing well. We released Robert Savage, he went to Crawley, and I believe he has a Welsh cap now."

Ferguson was quoted recently as observing that, if the Bosman ruling had been made two or three years earlier, his 1993 title-winning team would have won the European Cup. Their cohesiveness was disturbed by the need to juggle the foreign players.

"No, I didn't say that," he interjected. "What I said was that I felt we'd have had a good chance." But does the freedom to buy and select unlimited numbers of foreign players mean the end of a thorough youth policy at a club such as United?

"Absolutely not. In fact we're going to extend our plans. We'll be spending a lot more money on the youth programme." How will it be spent? "I'm not going to tell you that. Our Centre of Excellence is... excellent."



Young bloods... Gary Neville, left, and David Beckham watch the 1993 reserve team from the bench and dream of bigger things

ing, up and down the country." United themselves have two regional centres, in Belfast and the North-east. The Ulster scheme has a Belfast centre, Keith Gillespie, McGibbon, a 22-year-old central defender from Lurgan, and Philip Mulryne, an 18-year-old Belfast-born midfielder. David Healey, a 16-year-old centre-forward from Downpatrick, is another showing promise. "He'll be called up this year," Ferguson said, adding to the list the name of Jonathan Macken, an 18-year-old Manchester-born forward who did not come through the Belfast scheme but whose Irish ancestry has already won him a schoolboy cap.

knocked in goals for Burnley 30-odd years ago before moving into sports kit manufacture. The whole experience of bringing young players from the youth scheme into the first team has, Ferguson says, "gone better than we expected. At this place you never know with young players. The style, the demands, the expectations... as well as talent with a football, a boy needs certain qualities of character to succeed here. And the boys we've brought in over the past couple of years, they've done exceptionally well. No failures at all."

Manchester United 2-1 ahead of Newcastle, with three draws

KEVIN Keegan's and Alex Ferguson's teams have met six times since Newcastle returned to the Premiership in 1993. On Monday comes another mighty clash. The story so far: August 21 1993 Man Utd 4, Newcastle 1. Promoted Newcastle's champagne was going flat after two defeats, Gigg's free-kick put the title-holders in front but Cole equalised with the first of his 34 goals that season, a club record. December 11 1993 Newcastle 1, Man Utd 1. United, ramping in a second successive Premiership title and the Double, again scored first, once with a close-range header. Cole again replied, a header from Lee's cross. October 26 1994 Coca-Cola Cup 3rd round Newcastle 2, Man Utd 0. Fledgling Beckham, Butt, Gary Neville, Davies and Gillespie held out for an hour but Albert and Klison opened their account for Newcastle, now unbeaten in a record 19 games. October 29 1994 Man Utd 2, Newcastle 0. That run perished three days later. Cole was rested with sore shins, and a Pallister header and a Gillespie shot marked the beginning of the end of Newcastle's title challenge. January 15 1995 Newcastle 1, Man Utd 1. No Cole again, Ferguson and Keegan having agreed the £7 million transfer shock of the season three days earlier. Hughes scored from Cantona's neat pass but Klison equalised with a shot that went through Schmeichel's legs. December 27 1995 Man Utd 2 Newcastle 0. The Reds had to win, and they did through Cole and Keane. Victory for Newcastle would have put them 13 points clear.

Standing joke on Gazza

Soccer Diary

Martin Thorpe

THE Paramount bar in Aberdeen is making quite a splash. Or rather, the Paramount's toilets are, as punters relieve themselves of their pent-up animosity towards the rich and famous.

Three video screens have been built into the bar's stainless-steel male urinals and covered with perspex. On heading for the loo, customers request live footage of a personality to be played on a particular screen then, once inside, let out everything they have bottled up against their selected victim.

This has been particularly directed at Paul Gascoigne, Bryan Robson, Gary Lineker and Jamie Jones, while today's rugby game has made Will Carling a favourite. Others include Margaret Thatcher and Paul Daniels.

The only complaints about this standing joke have come from Rangers fans and one woman who wanted the logistic impossibility of the same in the women's loo. As another female customer said: "The men really seem to have a good time in there. You can hear them cheering each other and giving directions."

Manchester City this week denied a story that Blues fans Oasis are to become the team's new shirt sponsors. But the idea does open up intriguing musical possibilities for the shirt sponsorship of other teams. Bolton - Dire Straits; Birmingham - Rolling Stones; Tottenham - Gerry and the Pacemakers; Manchester United - Simply Red; West Ham - Foreigner; and, after last weekend, Newcastle - The Clash.

APITY Arsenal have renewed their shirt sponsorship deal with JVC, suggests an anonymous fax-number from Sever Sisters. He was looking forward to a deal with a more appropriate organisation: Slumberland, Prozac or Crisis At Christmas.

IS IT true that most footballers are what shall we say, intellectually challenged? Surely not. Take the Chelsea defender Frank Sinclair. According to his team-mate Gavin Peacock, "Frank thinks the brain is on the left side of the head. So he always puts penalties to the goalkeeper's right because he says it takes longer for the messages to get down to the right side of the keeper's body."

"This is serious," adds Peacock. "When the lads started giving him stick, he said, 'Oh no, it's the heart that's on the left, isn't it?'" It does make one wonder.

A LEADING bookmaker is offering a bet on the make-up of the England team to play Switzerland in their opening European Championship game on June 8. You bet on whether the combined value of the 11 players in the team is less than 137 points or more than 144. Each player's points value is determined by the first letter of his surname, ie. Adams 1pt, Shearer 19pts.

The more points your team is under 137 or over 144 the more money you make. So, if Terry Venables' team is: Cotton, Adams, Bould, Ablett, Barton, Barnby, Beardsley, Arderton, Batty, Cole, Armstrong; or Walker, Winterburn, A. Wright, D. Walker, M. Wright, Wilcox, Wise, Wonn, Waddle, I. Wright, Shearer, you may suppose that the England coach has had a bet.

NEIL RAPER is an avid Bradford fan. And when, on his birthday last Tuesday, he went to see his favourite team play Hartlepool there was a big surprise in store. His family had secretly arranged for him to be the mascot for the game, a treat sprung on him by club staff as he arrived at Feethams.

A lovely story, eh? Well, sort of. Neil Raper was actually 40 on Tuesday, as the crowd learned from the big number 40 on the back of the shirt he was forced to wear as he ran out. It was a stitch-up arranged by his wife Angela. Her 40th birthday is in two years' time, says Neil rubbing his hands.

Keegan attacks Asprilla 'can of worms'

then but the Manchester City manager, Keith Curle last Saturday. Keegan said he felt the use of video evidence to back up the case for the prosecution was setting a dangerous precedent. "I believe it is a bad road to go down," he said. "The referees did not see anything and I genuinely did not either. If every team in the country is to be subject to this, then fair enough but it would be wrong just to take

on the bigger clubs who are concealing their own mistakes. Keegan admitted he had not disciplined Asprilla. The Arsenal striker Ian Wright was severely censured by the FA yesterday for calling the Harrow referee David Elleray a "little Hitler" on ClubCall.

to recruit the Georgian international Mikhail Kavelashvili next week. The Everton defender Gary Ablett has joined Sheffield United on a month's loan and Sheffield Wednesday signed the Feyenoord winger Regi Eilertsen on a 3½-year contract. Another Dutchman, the striker Jeroen Boere, has joined Southampton from Crystal Palace for £150,000.

The Birmingham striker Steve Claridge finally moved to Leicester yesterday for £1.2 million, £500,000 of which was used to sign Andy Legg and Paul Devlin from Notts County. Claridge's parting shot was to say: "I wouldn't treat my dog the way I have been treated. One minute I was an ever-present and the next Fry couldn't wait to get me out."

A N Other

THIS Edinburgh-born jack-of-all-trades played for his country both as an amateur and a professional. At home he looked green but thereafter regularly wore red. He made more than a hundred league appearances in England during a famous field's fallow period. Before that he had spent a couple of years among the trees, and later he joined some robins.

Last week: Terry Venables (Chelsea, Tottenham, Queens Park Rangers, Crystal Palace).



Performance of the week: Ian Woan (Nottm Forest), whose two free-kicks frustrated Tottenham in the FA Cup and put his side in good heart for the Uefa Cup.

TEAM SHEET

Coventry v West Ham Utd The relegation strugglers Coventry will have Bortone and Williams back after suspension. West Ham could get a start if Taylor late to shake off a hip injury. The Coventry defender Williams has recovered from the ankle problem that sidelined him against Arsenal last week and is set to replace Harte, while the Hammers' midfielder Mowatt also returns after injury but is likely to be one of the substitutes.

Leeds Utd v Bolton Bolton could make a rare start for Leeds following his makeshift FA Cup heroics at Port Vale ahead of the midweek South American striker Mameza. Radford and Worthington are likely to continue as full-backs with Dango (hamstring), Johnson (knee) and Pemberton (leg and flu) all ruled out and Kelly given only an outside chance of recovering from shin and knee injuries. The basement club could call up McCallinzy and Shalton, who were on the bench for Sunday's 6-0 drubbing by Manchester United, to replace Blake and the suspended midfielder Thompson.

Manchester City v Blackburn Filanoff and Frontzek are back in contention for City after suspension with Hiley. Last weekend's debutant against Newcastle, back Straker's winger Wilson (ankle) and Riley (hamstring) are ruled out and the midfielder Gurney is doubtful but Rovers' hard-working striker Newell returns after a two-match ban.

Middlesbrough v Everton Middlesbrough's new Brazilian import, the free-kick specialist Ermano, could make his debut alongside the play-manager Percip, who has recovered from the calf muscle injury that has kept him out for two months. Pearson, Morris, Lodge, Pollock and Whelan are all suspended and Jure who is on international duty, but Boro can take heart from the 0-0 draw at Coventry last week that ended a run of eight defeats. Linpar is looking for a place in the Everton side and suspension but Taylor, Westm midfielder Horne is still banned.

Liverpool v Aston Villa Liverpool are waiting on Callaghan, who has a heavy cold, and Wright, who has a slight groin strain. Villa's forward Johnson faces a test on a thigh injury but Taylor has shaken off a hamstring strain.

Scottish preview

Celtic have Cadete ruled out

Patrick Glenn CELTIC were advised by the Scottish FA yesterday that Jorge Cadete is registered with Sporting Lisbon and is unable to play for the Parkhead club against Hearts today. Cadete, signed by Celtic until the end of the season, claimed he had bought his contract from his previous club and was a free agent. Sporting, however, said they were due compensation and the Scottish FA, their Portuguese counterparts and Fifa have been involved in the dispute for the past few days.

Fifa informed the SPA that, as Cadete is registered with Sporting, he cannot be cleared to play in Scotland. Celtic will have to pay the Portuguese a fee or call off the deal. Tommy Burns, the Celtic manager, was quick to emphasise that Cadete would not have been an automatic starter at Parkhead and that he had been brought in as back-up to Pierre van Hooijdonk and Andreas Thom.

"Just because there have been one or two hitches does not mean the whole world is going to cave in," said Burns. "It should not be forgotten that Cadete was never going to be an immediate part of the first team. With a quarter of the league campaign to go, others have already claimed positions for themselves."

Phil O'Donnell, the powerful midfielder, should be welcomed back as much as any player to the Celtic squad after weeks of inactivity with a groin problem. As a valuable contributor before his departure he will surely go straight into the team. It is a measure of Hearts' recent resurgence that Jim Jefferies was announced as Bell's Manager of the Month for February, with the Newcastle defender Paul Ritchie taking the award for Young Player of the Month.

Advertisement for ZZZCARS. Text: 'ZZZCARS British and American cop shows compared, tomorrow in theObserver'. Includes a small image of a car.

Golf

Faldo flies in the wind

David Davies in Miami

EUROPE's challenge, such as it is, in the Doral Ryder Open here is limited to fighting for survival in the second round. With the projected cut at level par, 144, and with the British and European players under par after the first round, the task was not going to be easy.

In fact a stiff wind sprang up to make it even more difficult for a player lagging behind to make up ground on the leaders. Joe Ozaki at 10 under and Vijay Singh at eight under.

But Nick Faldo, who has never lacked determination, went out and attacked — and eagled the 1st hole. At 333 yards and downwind it was relatively easy to drive but Faldo's eagle, which put him two under for the tournament, also gave him some valuable breathing space for the formidable holes to follow.

One of these was the 237yd "short" hole, the 4th, which yesterday was dead into the wind and, for all but professionals, unreachable. Faldo needed a wood and still had to hole from eight feet for his par. A large crowd, attracted probably by the fact that Corey Pavin was eight under and within two strokes of the lead, gave the Englishman's putt a big cheer, recognising that in realistic terms a three represented a birdie.

In Europe Bernhard Langer has gone 58 tournaments without missing a cut but a disappointing finish yesterday could lead to him not playing the last two rounds here. He bogeyed two of the last four holes, including the 18th which was yesterday into the wind for a 73 and a total of 145. It should miss.

It would break a string of 15 cuts he has made in the United States, going back to the USPGA in 1993.

Ernie Els set out with high expectation from this event but, with half the field still to complete the second round, he was at Miami airport waiting for a plane to Orlando where he has his American base. "He played great but putted like a spaceman," said his caddy, who was worried his man might have gone home too soon. "When did that Langer last miss a cut?" he said.

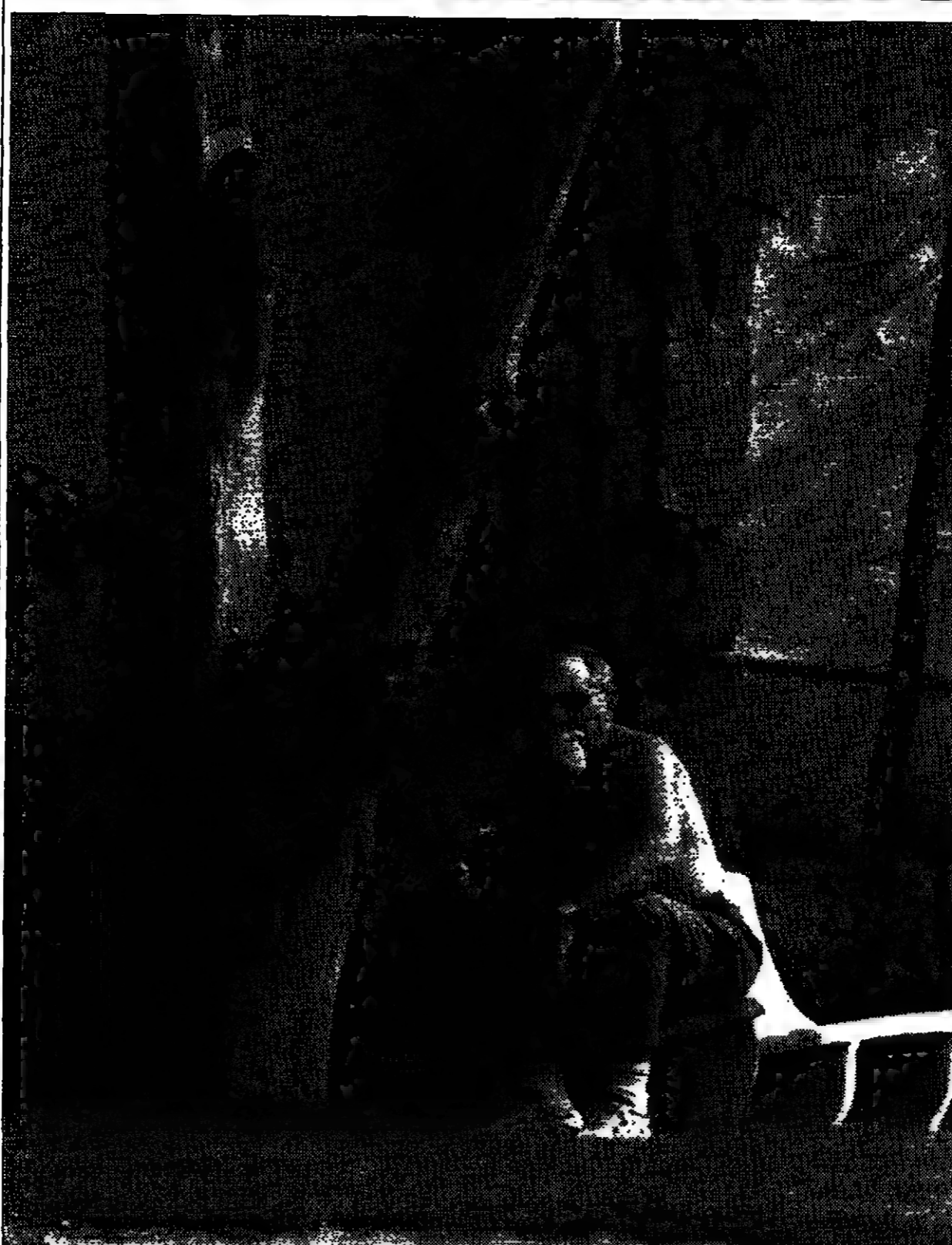
This is the first year that every event on the US Tour has at least \$1 million prize-money. There are, in fact, three tournaments offering \$3 million or more, and no fewer than 41 with over \$1 million, mostly around the \$1.5 million mark.

The Doral event led the million-dollar march when, back in 1987, the Ryder company, who are involved in transportation, took over the sponsorship of the tournament. They announced the amount of their sponsorship by unfurling a banner on the 18th green which read "\$1 million" — more than any of the other major championships had that year.

This week the prize fund is \$1.6 million and anyone winning the first prize of \$324,000 is guaranteed to finish in the top 60 of the Money List even without doing anything else.

In Europe Bernhard Langer has gone 58 tournaments without missing a cut but a disappointing finish yesterday could lead to him not playing the last two rounds here. He bogeyed two of the last four holes, including the 18th which was yesterday into the wind for a 73 and a total of 145. It should miss.

WORLD CUP CRICKET



A rupee for your thoughts... Raymond Illingworth looked stumped for words yesterday but the manager scotched suggestions that the wicketkeeper Jack Russell would be dropped against Pakistan tomorrow. Peter Martin, the seam bowler, may miss the match, however, after suffering a recurrence of a long-standing back injury.

Waugh and Warne tan Zimbabwe

MARK WAUGH and Shane Warne handed Zimbabwe a lesson yesterday as Australia improved their run-rate with an eight-wicket victory in their Group A match in Nagpur.

Waugh, the first man to score successive tournament centuries, finished unbeaten on 75, with 10 boundaries, and the leg-spinner finished with four for 34, regularly beating the bat Zimbabwe's decision to bat first probably saved them from more punishment, but few of their batsmen justified the captain Andy Flower's confidence in them.

Only the opener Andy Walker, who held the innings together until the 36th over with a sensible 67, offered prolonged resistance. The result lifted Australia alongside the group leaders

Sri Lanka on six points with one game to play — against West Indies in Jaipur on Monday. Sri Lanka, handed four wins by Australia and West Indies, meet India in New Delhi today. If West Indies lose to Australia, the outsiders Kenya can advance by beating Sri Lanka in the last group match in Kandy on Wednesday.

Tables

Table with 10 columns: Group, P, W, L, T, N, P, RR. It shows the performance of various teams in the World Cup Cricket tournament.

Table with 10 columns: Group, P, W, L, T, N, P, RR. It shows the performance of various teams in the World Cup Cricket tournament.

Table with 10 columns: Group, P, W, L, T, N, P, RR. It shows the performance of various teams in the World Cup Cricket tournament.

Table with 10 columns: Group, P, W, L, T, N, P, RR. It shows the performance of various teams in the World Cup Cricket tournament.

An Australian for Sri Lanka

David Hopps meets Dav Whatmore, the Melbourne coach rained in Colombo

AUSTRALIAN cricketers are unpopular in Sri Lanka for refusing to play there after the Colombo bomb. Yet, if Sri Lanka get past the World Cup quarter-finals, Australia's Dav Whatmore will deserve a share of the credit.

Whatmore, Sri Lanka's coach, was born in Colombo but his upbringing has been very Australian. He emigrated at the age of eight, gained seven Test caps as a batsman and studied as a coach for four years at the Victorian Institute of Sport.

Having failed to attract Ian Botham and Allan Border, Sri Lanka reluctantly turned instead last June to one of their own. How well he has integrated Australian planning and competitiveness into the Sri Lankan game will be seen in Delhi today, when they play India. Either could finish as Group A winners with a probable quarter-final against England in Faisalabad.

terms of bio-mechanics. They are all areas that cannot be overlooked. His most demanding task is to nurture the confidence of Muttiah Muralitharan, the off-spinner, blessed — or cursed — with a huge wrist rotation and a deformity of the elbow. All manner of video and medical evidence for the defence has been supplied to the International Cricket Council since he was repeatedly called for throwing during the Australian tour but he cannot be cleared because the ICC lacks a mechanism for doing so.

"What is so unfair is that there is no real process for fairly judging Muri's innocence," Whatmore said. "The ICC cannot clear him because that would need a panel to reach a decision, and the regulations concerning that will not be drawn up before July at the earliest."

"It is a big call for an umpire to call an international player for throwing these days. We need an approved centre to be determined where a bowler's action can be analysed, after which their conclusions can be considered by an official panel."

"Muri is a bubbly, happy sort of bloke but at the moment he needs reassurance and positive feedback. He must banish the doubts from his mind. He will keep spinning it, that's for sure, as he can't bow any other way."

Basketball

Cadle's crusade

Robert Pryce

AFTER three follow-up years, Kevin Cadle is winning trophies again. Following his frustrations with Guildford and England teams, he is happily placed at the helm of the London Towers in the Budweiser League. This season, he says "we could maybe sweep the board".

Cadle's London Towers aim for the second of the season's four major trophies in the British Basketball League National Cup final at the Sheffield Arena tomorrow. Lying in wait for them will be the Sheffield Sharks.

The story of the season so far has largely been shaped by these teams' rivalry. North against South, the two met in the play-offs, with the Sharks prevailing 82-74.

The Towers are bigger and more talented, but they have not made Cadle's job easy. In the previous two weeks ago the coach called a time-out at 61-55 with 7min 45sec left, after the Towers had missed five successive shots.

"We ain't scored on that shit all year," Cadle said yesterday. "We've got to move the basketball." Then, he told them, "at some stage we've got to go to the next level. You've got to start thinking about defence."

They went out and made him look like a genius. Over the next few minutes they forced two turnovers and blocked three shots while outscoring the Sharks 14-4.

Sport in brief

ATHLETICS The women's favourite, Paula Radcliffe, last night pulled out of tomorrow's British Cross country three-pionners in Ashington. The 23-year-old Radcliffe, a strong medal contender for the world championships in Cape Town on March 23, cut and bruised a knee in a recent race in Luxembourg.

MARK HYLTON, Britain's European junior champion, joined Britain's casualty list for next weekend's European Indoor Championships in Stockholm when he pulled out of the 400 metres with a groin strain.

THE AMERICAN Picabo Street clinched the World Cup women's downhill title yesterday when she finished second in the penultimate race of the season at Narvik in Norway. The Russian Varvara Zenslavskaya was fastest down the mountain in the two-leg race to claim her first downhill victory.

JOE BUGNER, twice refused a licence by the British Boxing Board of Control, will fight Brighton's Scott Welch for the WBO Inter-Continental heavyweight title in Berlin on March 16.

JOHN PARROT, the European Open champion in 1995 and 1996, secured his place in the semi-finals of this year's tournament with a flattering 5-1 victory over Dave Harold in Malta, writes Clive Ebertson. He now faces Belfast's Joe Swail for a place in tomorrow's final.

Results

Rugby Union SUPER 12 MATCH (Evening), New South Wales 22, Transvaal 11. INTERNATIONALS Wales 8, Wales 11. INTERNATIONALS Wales 8, Wales 11.

GOLF DORAL OPEN (Miami, Florida) First round US prize money; 54 L. Janson, 55 M. Bradley, 56 G. Sorenson, 57 G. Sorenson, 58 G. Sorenson, 59 G. Sorenson, 60 G. Sorenson.

Tennis MILAN INDOOR TOURNAMENT (C) of A. Vanna (Italy) 7-6 (4), 6-1. R. Pietrangeli (Italy) 6-3, 6-2. M. Pietrangeli (Italy) 6-3, 6-2.

Cricket BRITISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP (Worcester) (Day 1) England (Eng) 10, Pakistan (Pak) 15-77.

Cycling TOUR OF VALENCIA Fourth stage (Duller to Vall D'Uix, 199km), 1. D. Pous (Spain) 4:05.2, 2. M. Rodriguez (Spain) 4:05.2, 3. J. Garate (Spain) 4:05.2.

Baseball BRISBANE GOLDEN STATE 8, New York Yankees 14. Houston Astros 10, Philadelphia Phillies 10. Toronto Blue Jays 10, Chicago White Sox 10.

Now free calls and one second billing. A large advertisement for mobile phones with a background image of a Nokia phone.

Cellphones direct. ORDER NOW FOR FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS. FREEPHONE 0800 000 888. Includes details about Nokia 2010 and Vodafone PersonalWorld phones.

FIVE NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP: Richards to snuff out Grand Slam flame, page 9

SOCCER: old heads on young shoulders at Manchester United, page 10

SportsGuardian

CLUB SIDE PUT ATHERTON'S MEN IN THE SHADE



Rock bottom... Richard Illingworth is grounded as Karachi's club cricketers pile on the runs yesterday. Tomorrow England face the Pakistan national side

Time for luck to smile on Keegan



David Lacey

MONDAY Night at Eight was a popular radio magazine programme before the second world war and featured, among other personalities, one Harry S Pepper. The last time Newcastle United won the league championship even such mild diversions as this were barely a glimmer in the Reithian eye.

Now, for Newcastle, their players and supporters, Monday Night at Eight, far from being a sound-only sideshow, promises to be a full stage production starring, among others, Faustino Asprilla, Peppor or no peppor, should Manchester United win at St James' Park, narrowing the gap at the top to a point, the Premiership notions of Kevin Keegan's team will begin to be accompanied by large pinches of salt.

England flat out in farce

Mike Selvey in Karachi on the latest defeat for Mike Atherton's ill-starred side

CONSIDERING the recent depths to which England have sunk, it was hard to imagine them surpassing their own ineptitude. Yesterday, however, they managed it against a Karachi Cricket Association XI in no way encumbered by the presence of two of England's sides in their team.

England received, but did not deserve, half that. Atherton's lack of Russell, who with Graham Thorpe had batted against his team-mates, said that he was glad that he had not hit the winning runs. "It would," he said, "have been like Denis Law backheeling that one for City to send United down."

an excellent pitch — the best they have come across in Pakistan — England's batsmen spent useful time in the middle, without perhaps the urgency, particularly with the running, that they will need to show if they are to beat Pakistan tomorrow.

Atherton got back into the swing a little with a 57-ball 51 before falling to an international combination of the leg-spinner Iqbal Sikander and the wicketkeeper-captain Moin Khan, both of whom were members of Pakistan's World Cup winning squad.

Shadab hit nine cracking fours in his 68 before being bowled when sweeping Neil Smith's offspin. But Kashif made 71 before Reeve's brilliant fielding ran him out from cover, and Russell (35) and Thorpe (32) weighed in before Moin's vigorous un-bested 46 from 26 balls.

Sky imposes Bruno-Tyson news black-out

Andrew Culf Media Correspondent

RUPERT MURDOCH'S Sky Sports is embroiled in a new row over its pay-per-view coverage of the forthcoming Frank Bruno-Mike Tyson title fight.

Talks with the BBC and ITN over news footage of the fight broke down in acrimony last night when Sky insisted that news clips could not be shown until 72 hours after the WBC title fight, which takes place in Las Vegas in the early hours of March 17.

Even screen stills, they said, could not appear on terrestrial TV until 48 hours after the end of the fight. "The situation is unacceptable," the BBC said last night. "But we believe talks will continue."

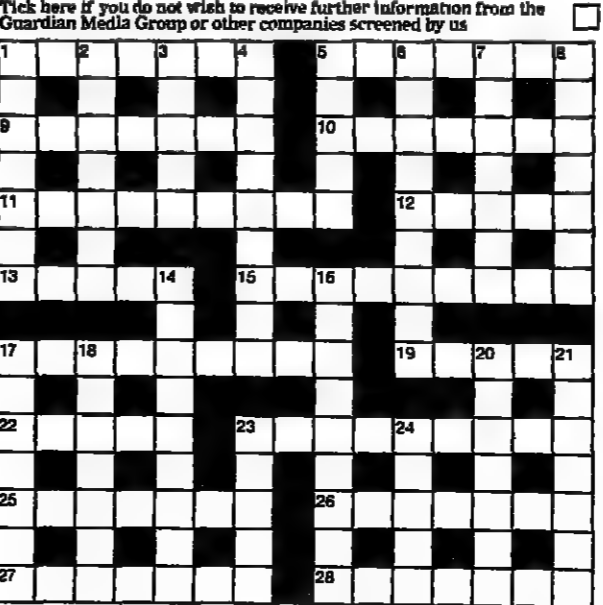
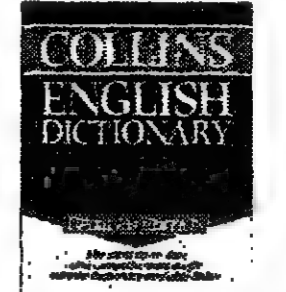
Normally broadcasters are permitted to take clips of up to 60 seconds from major sporting events for use in their news bulletins up to six

times within the next 48 hours. Sky Sports has come under heavy fire for charging its subscribers £9.95 to watch the fight. It will be the first time the pay-per-view system, which is commonplace in the United States, has been used in Britain.

Guardian COLLINS Crossword 20,590

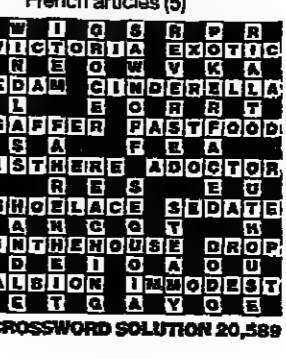
A copy of the Collins English Dictionary will be sent to the first five correct entries drawn. Entries to Guardian Crossword No 20,590, P.O. Box 315, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 2AX, by first post on Friday. Solution and winners in the Guardian on Monday March 11.

Name _____ Address _____



- 3 Different times raised for Greek character (5)
- 4 One to carp; it takes a penny in the pound (3-6)
- 5 Remove the unpleasantness society girls as to embrace (5)
- 6 Character told by how old he is (in French) (5)
- 7 Pieces of music causing titers (7)
- 8 An agent came across rising painter's medium (7)
- 14 Mystery of bad wound — hint: 23 across in 11 12 13 (9)
- 16 Siren with a bit of a wig, possibly? (9)
- 17 Money for Greek character starting in play (7)
- 18 Pays badly, going round to preserve clothing (7)
- 20 A bench in a boat going across (7)
- 21 Porter, the same on Golden Island (7)
- 23 Father of two not left in place of 11 12 13 (5)
- 24 Old man caught among French artichokes (5)

- Set by Araucaria**
- Across**
- 1 Satire — about a politician being a fool (7)
 - 5 Lay — poetically it is started the other way (7)
 - 9 Beat a fellow for touching? (7)
 - 10 Shakespeare, Austen, and Wodehouse hero (7)
 - 11, 12, 13 Play a Greek character with little time to go following pointed silence among cast... (3, 6, 2, 3, 5)
 - 15 ... whose object made a hit with Ankara (9)
 - 17 Grope uncertainly when in liquor to take off computer (9)
 - 19 Dash'd big antelope (5)
- Down**
- 1 Not truthful remarks about not very old child, say (7)
 - 2 It's Henry that's upset with me, or I'm a Dutchman (7)

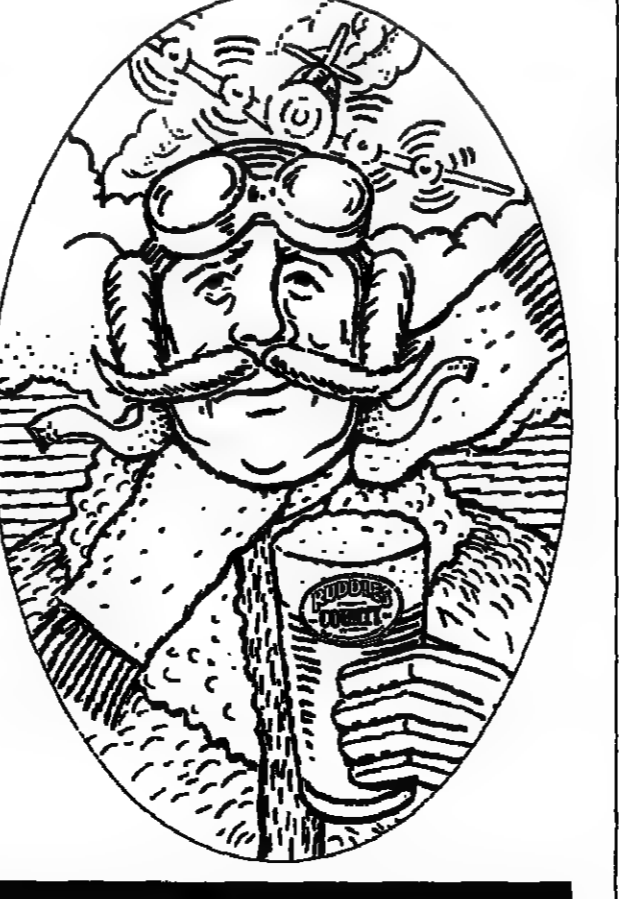


CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,590

Ruddles County Riddles.

No. 2. Farewell to 'Chocsaway'

Britain yesterday mourned the death of one of its greatest World War II pilots, Donald 'Chocsaway' Chippenham. It was Chippenham who took centre-stage in an amazing top-secret bombing mission in November 1943. So hush-hush was the operation, Chippenham was only informed late that very evening. Unfortunately, by this stage he was heavily embroiled in a lively officers' social where Ruddles County, that fine Ratland beer, was being enjoyed in copious amounts. Not exactly feeling in tip-top shape, our fearless pilot managed to take-off and within hours was over his designated target. On pressing the 'bomb release' button, the fully-laden hatch opened but strangely no bombs came out. Not realising this until he'd returned to Blighty, the intrepid 'Chocs' flew straight back and successfully completed his mission. Back at base, news of his safe return led to monumental celebrations with fellow officers quaffing the beer clean dry of Ruddles County. Certain staff at Ruddles can still fondly remember those extra deliveries to the airbase but are lost as to why Chippenham's initial flight failed. It's a bit of a twister but see if you can work it out (twist again for the solution).



Solution: Chippenham's plane was open when he pressed the bomb release button so although the hatch opened the bombs obviously didn't drop.



Outlook The Guardian

Illustration by PETER CLARKE



The recipe for change

DIVIDE education of 3 to 16-year-olds into three classes of schools — junior, middle and fifth/sixth form colleges. Nursery schools should be extended to all 3 to 4-year-olds. Although class sizes throughout need to be smaller, the priority is nursery and the early years of primary education. For all 3 to 8-year-olds class sizes should be limited by statute to 20, with the aim to get down to 15. The planned voucher system for 4-year-olds should be abandoned, involving as it does an overt subsidy to well-off parents. Enlarged middle schools should then take over the last two years of existing primary schools and the first three of comprehensives. Literary and numeracy tests would ensure basic levels being reached on admission. The range of subjects should be as wide as possible. In the latter years specialisation would develop, demanding setting, as a preparation for admission to new fifth/sixth form colleges for 14 to 16-year-olds. These colleges would offer integrated education for new GCSEs and A levels which would be broadened and benchmarked for quality by integration with the best European exams. Over-subscribed colleges would be required to select by public examination. Specialisms in science, the languages and arts would be encouraged. Private schools would be asked to participate, opening up part of their classes to public access.

RESOURCES

RAISING teachers' pay, recruiting more than 1,000 new teachers, constructing new facilities and the proper funding of universities do not come cheap. The National Commission on Education called its recommendations at £3.2 billion in 1993, partially offset by £1.3 billion savings from creativity and productivity. These proposals imply slightly higher spending of around £4 billion — or around 0.5 per cent of GDP. Local authorities should control the system, must be permitted to raise more funds. Core funding, however, would have to come from the centre. A one per cent increase in employers' National Insurance contributions would raise more than £2 billion, while the phased withdrawal of all tax privileges and subsidies to private schools would raise another £1 billion.

EVALUATION AND TARGETS

SCHOOLS and universities need to join in the culture of continuous improvement through raising targets, self-evaluation, spreading information and friendly external scrutiny. The league table needs to become a tool of improvement, not a rat race. The end result would be a revitalised state system. Successful comprehensives would become middle schools and fifth/sixth form colleges on the same campus while existing grammar schools could be accommodated elsewhere. Fresh schools would be created. The private schools would have some solid competition. Selection and streaming would enter the state system to bring high standards while the comprehensive principle would remain for as long as possible, but at some stage the reality of differing intellectual capacity has to be recognised. The middle class would be tempted back into a high-quality state system and the foundations of a learning society laid.

WILL HUTTON says we can avoid the looming crisis in education if we properly fund and commit to a system which recognises differing abilities; while (right) he shows how we can achieve those aims

Look, listen and learn

THE British education system is buckling under the weight of incompatible demands. From nursery school to university there are ever higher expectations of educational achievement which are having to be met as the system suffers from an unprecedented financial squeeze. There is a growing decline in confidence in the basic institution of secondary education — the comprehensive — which is extending to the primary school. Standards are palpably inadequate: crisis is an over-used word but British education is close to that point. The system has come to this pass in part because of the reforms of the past 10 years. The greater access to information about the performance of British schools has proved disconcerting, if not alarming. The explosion of students undertaking higher education is welcome but it has been ac-

companied by the largest fall in spending per student of any large industrialised country. The current round of expenditure cuts is threatening the sustainability of university education. This impoverishment of the British state education system is the central fact of its existence. Spending per pupil — already less than half of that deemed adequate in public schools — has progressively sunk to ever lower levels. Teachers' pay is at its lowest level in relation to average earnings for 20 years, while a derisory level of capital spending has led to dramatic under-resourcing of every aspect of school life, most marked in science and technology. Schools and universities have been required to make compensating "productivity" increases as if they were manufacturing widgets, but the process of teaching and learning is not parallel to factory production. The greatest men-

ace to state education has been its commoditisation in the search for expenditure cuts. But the second fundamental fact of British education is its surrender to the dictates of social engineering rather than universal high standards — notions perfectly captured by the taboo on public discussion of private schools and selection. For the British middle class and the Conservative party the private school system is its own form of social engineering — a means of ensuring that its offspring have privileged access to educational achievement, personal social networks, the "right" kind of peer pressure and the subtle nuances of accent and deportment that define membership of the British elite. The assisted places scheme offers a hand up to the poorer members of the middle class unable to afford the average annual fees of £5,000 or more, and sends the vital message that state education is second

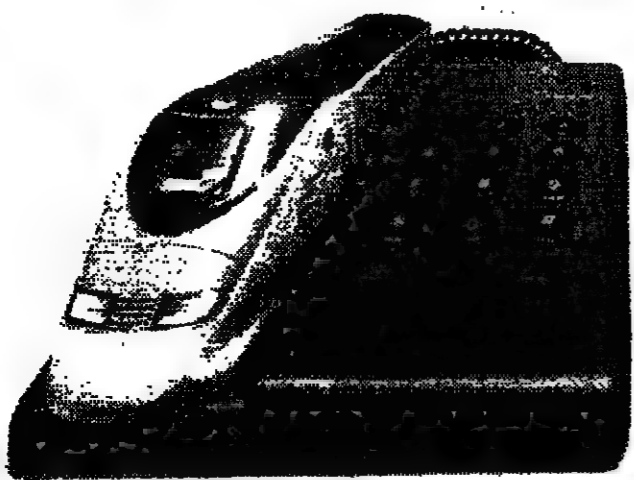
best while solidifying support for private schools in the crucial middle-class constituency. Meanwhile, hostility to selection, even though it is the basis of university admission and the grading of all public examinations, attempts to cement another form of social engineering for those who have not opted out — and thereby make standards and expectations of educational achievement at best equal and at worst secondary to the achievement of a bastardised idea of equality. Here the long shadow of the divisive 11-plus examination dogs any attempt to open up secondary education to the urgent educational necessity of grouping students of comparable ability, enthusiasm and interest into classes and schools in which their interests can best be served. This fails both the long tail of underperformers who need the system biased in their favour and the high achievers.

Put the cocktail together and you have the emerging British educational system: grammar schools retained as fee-paying independent schools, underfunded comprehensives assuming the mantle of the old discredited secondary moderns, indifferent standards, a demoralised and underpaid teaching profession, an opt-out middle class unwilling to pay taxes for a state education system to which it does not send its children, universities on the point of bankruptcy — and Britain sitting at the bottom of the international league tables of educational achievement. Any response requires the construction of a national consensus; a minimum of shared aims about what the structure of the education system should be, how it should be funded and what should be taught. But here Britain falls at the first hurdle. Successive educational commissions may urge closing the gulf between academic and vocational attainment and the construction of socially and intellectually balanced schools — but to do so in the face of a private school system as entrenched and powerful as that in Britain is baying for the moon. The elite are largely educated at private schools; private schools offer an academic education; ergo an academic education is the avenue to elite economic and social status and thus of higher value. Equally, if 8 per cent of children, necessarily those of high-income families placing a high value on education, opt out into private schools the

chances of building socially balanced schools in the state sector are inevitably reduced. Not even the admirable National Commission on Education, chaired by Sir Claus Moser and whose report remains the bible about British education, remained silent on the question. Not one of its 16 recommendations — themselves largely ignored — touched the subject. It is too hot to handle. Defenders of private education may insist that freedom of choice is an unassailable human right; but western philosophy has been wrestling for two millennia with the necessity that liberty may have to be qualified if other no less important values — for example equality of opportunity and social cohesion — are to have any meaning. Your freedom to educate your child privately (a freedom in any case dependent on your income) qualifies the equality of opportunity to which my child is no less entitled in any just society. And the more children are educated privately the more that fundamental inequality is increased. This is Britain's guilty secret: everybody knows it. Nobody, apart from a few mavericks such as George Walden MP, chooses to say it. Yet the increasing disappearance of the middle class from state schools is not the only brake on educational attainment and social balance; there is the content of what is taught, the expectations alike of teacher and pupil and the intellectual composition of classes. Here again ideology

obstructs the capacity to think straight, and helps create the sometimes disastrous educational conditions in which even those citizens most loyal to universal state education feel they can no longer condemn their children. The disappointing international comparisons are not merely a reflection of the disproportionate impact of social inequality and large class sizes. There is little doubt that British pedagogic techniques, notably low expectations of what children can achieve, along with the way classes are constituted are also part of the story. Inexorably we are led straight to the tension between the educational necessity of streaming and selecting to meet the capacities of similarly able pupils and the social need not to damn different students maturing at different speeds into lower status. Some comprehensives in socially cohesive parts of the country, fed by strong local primary schools, do far better than the black propaganda against state education suggests and would do better still if properly resourced, but this cannot wish away the growing problems of the rest of the system, which all of Britain's urban conurbations are now facing. The task is to find a structure which does not endanger the current areas of excellence while turning around the growing crisis in the state sector where it does exist. I offer, right, one way forward.

Leader Comment, page 14.



0345 881 881
EUROPEAN PASSENGER SERVICES

ORGANISE A EUROSTAR £69*
EASTER BREAK FROM
YOUR **NEST.**

Springtime in Brussels from only £69 return or Paris from only £79 return is just a phone call away. Alternatively you can take a quick trip to your local travel agent or mainline BR station.

*Subject to conditions and availability.

14 THE LEADER PAGE

This way to boost schools

WHO is right: the old left which declares there is nothing wrong with comprehensive schools, or the new right which wants selection back? Neither, but David Blunkett will not win unanimous applause for saying so. In his keynote speech this week, the shadow Education Secretary could not have been blunter: comprehensive schools had not reduced educational inequality, too many comprehensives had replicated the worst features of the old secondary moderns, expectations were "often too low", and rather than focus on every pupil reaching his full potential, they had instead developed "an unfortunate association with rigid mixed ability teaching".

Recent polls show parents remain opposed to selection at 11. But the muted response has other causes. Belatedly the left is recognising debate about the future of comprehensives should not be left to the Tory press and rightwing pressure groups. Raising standards should be a leftwing cause — particularly the standards of less academic children. Of course there are good comprehensives. Of course there are bigger problems in urban than suburban comprehensives. But Blunkett was right not to duck behind these facts. A succession of international studies — and our own school inspectors — have shown how far standards must be raised. In maths, for example, our average 14-year-olds are one year behind their German contemporaries but, even worse, the bottom 40 per cent are two years behind. This month's annual report from the school inspectors showed no closing of the education gap: "the most successful secondary schools achieve GCSE results twice as good as others in similar socio-economic circumstances and six times better than those achieved by the least successful in less favoured areas". A follow up parliamentary question from Labour found the GCSE results of the top 20 per cent of schools were 12 times better than the bottom 20 per cent, which average a mere one C per pupil.

The Guardian was arguing two decades ago. In fact 60 per cent of secondary school classes are now based on ability either through setting or streaming. But this is skewed by the high proportion in the fifth year. Blunkett's call for less mixed ability, more help to gifted and less academic children, more specialisation within individual comprehensives is right. The leaked draft Dearing report on 16 to 19 education which we publish today identifies other important ways of raising standards — particularly for the most demotivated pupils. About 20 per cent of 16-year-olds fail to achieve even level G in English and maths. Dearing's solution is to re-motivate them through vocationally relevant activity from the age of 14, possibly in FE colleges rather than school. Just as important, Sir Ron recognises clearly enough that vocational education should not just be reserved for the less bright. His proposals involve a framework covering all abilities, twin academic and vocational tracks in schools, each giving access to higher education and both ensuring there is breadth as well as depth. His package would also broaden A levels as employers and many educationalists have urged, raise the status and standards of vocational education through applied A levels, and give students the choice of pursuing a single track or selecting subjects from each. The single package deals with the two most serious educational challenges: disaffected 14-year-olds, and meeting the needs of the increasing number of non-academic children who now stay on beyond 16.

Cutting royals down to size

ONE OF the truly difficult decisions one might be called on to make in this life is whom to side with in the forthcoming Battle of the Baubles — Charles or Diana. Does she have squatter's rights at Kensington Palace? Should she be given a palatial pile in Norfolk to compensate for the loss of Highgrove? Should he be expected to cough up for all this from his own pocket money or should the Queen dip into her hidden resources? What is it worth *not* to write a book? And how much is it worth for her to keep the coveted title "Her Royal Highness". The Daily Mail, blessed with an open line to Kensington Palace, was typically helpful yesterday in providing a detailed breakdown of Diana's modest outgoings ranging from accommodation costs (£303,978 a year) down to her taste in underwear (Donna Karan intimates etc at £4,004 a year). We are not sure where the stray £4 came from: probably VAT or a spare piece of elastic. Total annual expenditure was £751,005 a year, though the Mail thinks she would settle for a "clean-break" lump sum of £15 million. This is a difficult area because nobody knows what the market worth of a discarded royal really is. Perhaps it is time to find out. After all, if the Government really believes that *everything* is more efficiently done by the private sector, why should the monarchy, which has been ossifying in the public sector

for longer than any other institution, be exempt? Just as the private sector bid this week for the lowest subsidy with which to run the Channel Tunnel rail link, so companies should bid for the lowest subsidy with which to run Diana's entourage. Surely a working princess doesn't need both a palace and a country house; aromatherapy massages could be fortnightly instead of weekly and, for goodness sake, there's nothing wrong with Marks & Sparks underwear. No one would know the difference except those who helped get her into all this bother in the first place. If royalty is to be market-tested it should also swallow the Government's other patent cure: downsizing. While the civil service and industry have been slimming down drastically, there has been an explosion of dukedoms, princes and princesses — few with anything sensible to do — which will erode the popularity of the monarchy at a time when it needs all the friends it can get. There are now nearly 50 members of the royal family including 17 royal princes and princesses entitled to use the coveted prefix, HRH. If the monarchy continues to wash its dirty linen in public it will find that its existence will increasingly be questioned. As with a company fearing a hostile take-over, it should shrink to survive. Princess Di should seize the initiative by abandoning the title HRH, the dignity of which has been eroded by her public antics. Or she should go the whole hog, like the pop idol Prince, and change her name to something which more clearly reflects her new status: the artist formerly known as Princess.



A grim tale of two cities

Sarajevo and Mostar — both symbolise the conflict in Bosnia but, says MARTIN WOOLLACOTT, it is the latter which holds the key to its future. Illustration by PETER TILL

TWO cities above all have come to represent the tragedy of Bosnia. Sarajevo, pounded by the Bosnian Serbs for three-and-a-half years from its own surrounding hills; and Mostar, chopped in half by fighting between Muslims and Croats. Even though a sort of peace has arrived, the fate of Bosnia still depends very largely on what happens in these two places. The Sarajevo authorities yesterday took over more of what had been the Serb-held suburbs. The city is now solidly connected with government-held territory elsewhere. The shift in Sarajevo's fortunes was shown not only by this formal end to the state

of siege, but by the indictment in The Hague of General Djordje Djukic, the Bosnian Serb logistics chief who, among other things, organised the steady flow of shells to the guns and mortars which battered Sarajevo. General Djukic is the man who took a wrong turn on the outskirts of Sarajevo and found himself in custody, first that of the Bosnian government and then of the International War Crimes Tribunal. A logistic lieutenant, set out for a two-mile drive in the Balkans and end up in prison in Holland. The question of war crimes, the possibility that the Bosnian Serbs might in some way go back on the deal that was done at Dayton, and the dis-

choice of the educated and ethnically-tolerant class in the capital and in some other centres, like Tuzla, and he might be able, in the coming elections, to pull together an opposition front that could deny President Alija Izetbegovic's Party of Democratic Action a two-thirds majority. In the Bosnian Serb republic, Karadzic and Ratko Mladic appear vulnerable, opposed by groups within the main party and in opposition parties. Much of this is manipulated by Slobodan Milosevic and cannot be taken at face value. But there is the possibility of the emergence of a more reasonable Bosnian Serb leadership, one with less direct responsibility for the war. The most serious problem in Bosnia is the one symbolised by Mostar. When the European Union took over responsibility for the city, the idea was to stop the fighting, separate the combatants, put in plenty of aid to rebuild the city, and, finally, to achieve agreement on how to re-unite it. It was a sort of Dayton in miniature.

Physician heal thyself



Maureen Freely

DOCTOR friend of mine insists that hospitals will only become the efficient places they would like them to be when they figure out how to eliminate patients. Now it seems that GPs are drifting towards the same conclusion. This week the BMA launched a government-backed campaign to shame us into "thinking twice" before calling doctors at night. Apparently night calls have doubled in the past three years. Most of these unnecessary visits are to people who don't seem to have caught on that medicine has no cure for the common cold, and it is not unknown, they say, for patients to call their GP out because they've run out of tampons, or have just had it with a case that's been bothering them for six months, or are not quite sure if they're well enough to go to a cocktail party. This can't go on, they now tell us. Morale has never been lower amongst doctors, and so they need their sleep more than ever. If they are tired at morning surgery because a chronic NHS abuser has woken them up at two in the morning on account of a lost medicine cabinet key, the quality of care will decline and we will all suffer. What we are supposed to do to help doctors help us, then, is act on the assumption that most illnesses are not serious and can either wait till morning or cure themselves without a poor over-worked GP losing any time over it at all. I find this directive rather puzzling as I thought that the main reason GPs have kept in contact with patients throughout history is their conviction that they and only they can tell the difference between, say, a baby with a high fever and a baby with meningitis, or a case of indigestion and a heart attack, or breathing trouble due to a strained muscle and a collapsed lung. Surely it is to catch the one serious problem that has made GPs willing to go out on hundreds of calls to patients who could have muddled through without them. If they want us

Smallweed



ROBIN COOK'S fine speech in the Commons debate on Scott ended with words which independent-minded MPs will treasure. The first function of Parliament, the tiny statesman pointed his beard

at the Tories and roared, was to hold governments to account, regardless of party allegiance. Quite right too. MPs are not sent to Westminster by their constituents to serve as mere lobby fodder. Whether these teachings will be quite as much in vogue when the Blairocracy takes over is, however, another matter. It may be that fierce clashes will occur as a Labour government sets off down roads which backbenchers don't approve of. The whips will mutter menacingly. Whereupon, I predict, rebellious members will produce their dog-eared cuttings of Cook, read them out in tones of horrible sanctimony, and declare that they're not to be bullied into submission...

have noted, has not gone unpunished for his love of double negatives. But could these tiresome formulas be the work of another hand? "You shouldn't blame Scott for double negatives," a man not inexperienced in the role of Whitehall permanent secretary has softly confided to agents of Smallweed. "Everyone knows that is Robin Butler's style." The Robin Butler, that is, who is Cabinet Secretary, who believes that half the picture is an acceptable form of the truth and who not long ago played the role of Hercule Poirot in the matter of Jonathan Aitken's bills. He's also a popular tip as the man most likely to have twisted the judge's arm in the interest of curbing his language. Perhaps Labour ought to commission one of those academics who, by comparing their use of language, proves that Marlowe wrote

Hamlet or A S Byatt the early works of Joan Collins to test this theory. Should tests prove positive, it would no doubt enhance the Cabinet Secretary's chances of enjoying a peaceful early retirement rather than being steamrollered into further service by Blair. KENYA'S triumph over the West Indies went unreported on news bulletins in Nairobi. Could it be that no one made plans to cover the match because in such encounters the Kenyans are always expected to lose? If so, should not the BBC now apply the same principle to the exploits of England's cricketers, at least till results get better? WITH THE Government's majority dwindling, a process which will surely continue should they ever conde-

scend to call the by-election that's due in Staffordshire, the BBC and ITN are frantically laying their plans to cover the next general election, all too aware of the obloquy which awaits them if they get anything wrong. Executives known to Smallweed are in a state of torment after a fierce assault launched on them by the famous psephologist and witty leg-spinner, Robert Wallace. In the latest edition of his Almanac Of British Politics. Unexpectedly, he recalls in an entry on Sunderland North, this was the first seat to declare a result in the 1992 election, wrong-footing the BBC, who weren't there, and to some extent ITN, as they declared that Bill Etherington had "got back in" when in fact he was a new candidate, replacing the far left ex-bus driver who had sat for this seat for nine years. A deserved rebuke no

doubt, and executives are ashamed of themselves. Except that the first seat to declare wasn't Etherington's Sunderland North but Chris Mullin's Sunderland South. SMALLWEED was truly horrified to read the letter in Thursday's Guardian from Councillor Nimrod King, of Brighton, who seemed to have taken offence from a Gummy (or Gummy) into a Ping, ago as implying that neither he nor his adversary in the case of a planned relief road, Keith Traupleasure, really exist, and threatening to call on the services of several hundred solicitors with names like Pospip and Graspnose to redress the imagined wrong. Smallweed never raised any doubt about Traupleasure, whose name, he said, was obviously natural. As to Ping, Smallweed merely fantasised (and one is

allowed to fantasise, is one not, in any free country) that just possibly the councillor was not born with his present name, but might instead have adopted it in place of an earlier name he found dull or embarrassing, like Arthur Grotty, or John Selwyn Gummer. In such a predicament, I imagined, he might simply one day have changed with a most melodious twang from a Gummy (or Gummy) into a Ping, always a Ping, he might well have rhapsodised. But he didn't. We may, I suspect, not yet have heard the last word on this matter. OWEN MURRAY, ousted by Smallweed last week as Professor of Accordion Studies at the Royal Academy of Music, apparently isn't the only one. Richard Russell writes

from Bowmore, Isle of Islay, the locale as I understand it of a huge concentration of Smallweed readers, to chide me for not attending the concerts given in Port Ellen over the past two years by Professor Oleg Sharov, who teaches the classical accordion at the conservatoire in St Petersburg. "I am not now, and never have been, an accordionist," my correspondent assures me. This is all very well as far as it goes, but what I had secretly hoped for was evidence of something still more exotic, like a Professor of Mouth Organ Studies at somewhere like Plymouth or Portsmouth. Any such sighting will be richly rewarded by Smallweed, perhaps with a ticket for Tuesday's epic clash between Smallweed and Carlisle in the A-to Wind-screens Northern Area final, first leg.

Policy breakdown on the road to peace



Martin Kettle

AS USUAL, Tony Benn oversimplified. But, as usual, there was some truth in what he said. Benn popped up on the radio this week to discuss Labour's preparations for office and pronounced that the vital thing for any incoming government is to know where it wants to go.

Characteristically, the man who has more Cabinet experience than any other Labour MP made it all sound much more straightforward than it ever is. Among the bits he left out was the part about the power of events to change even the best laid plans of mice and men. But his essential point remains. Governments need to know where they are heading. That knowledge does not in itself guarantee success. But in most circumstances a policy aim is a necessary precondition of policy success and it is much more important than the detail of how such a success is to be achieved. If you do not know your destination, all routes are in danger of leading nowhere. When Gladstone won the

1868 election he famously announced that his mission was to pacify Ireland. The Grand Old Man was certainly fuzzy about the detail and in the end he did not succeed. But there can be little disagreement that he was right to try. What made it possible was that Gladstone knew what he wanted over Ireland. Can the same be said of John Major and Northern Ireland today? And can the same be said of the Labour Party which so assiduously supports his Irish policy at every turn? I am not so sure. And I am not so sure because it is not clear where British policy is ultimately aiming. More than two years into the Northern Ireland peace process the objective of British policy in Northern Ireland

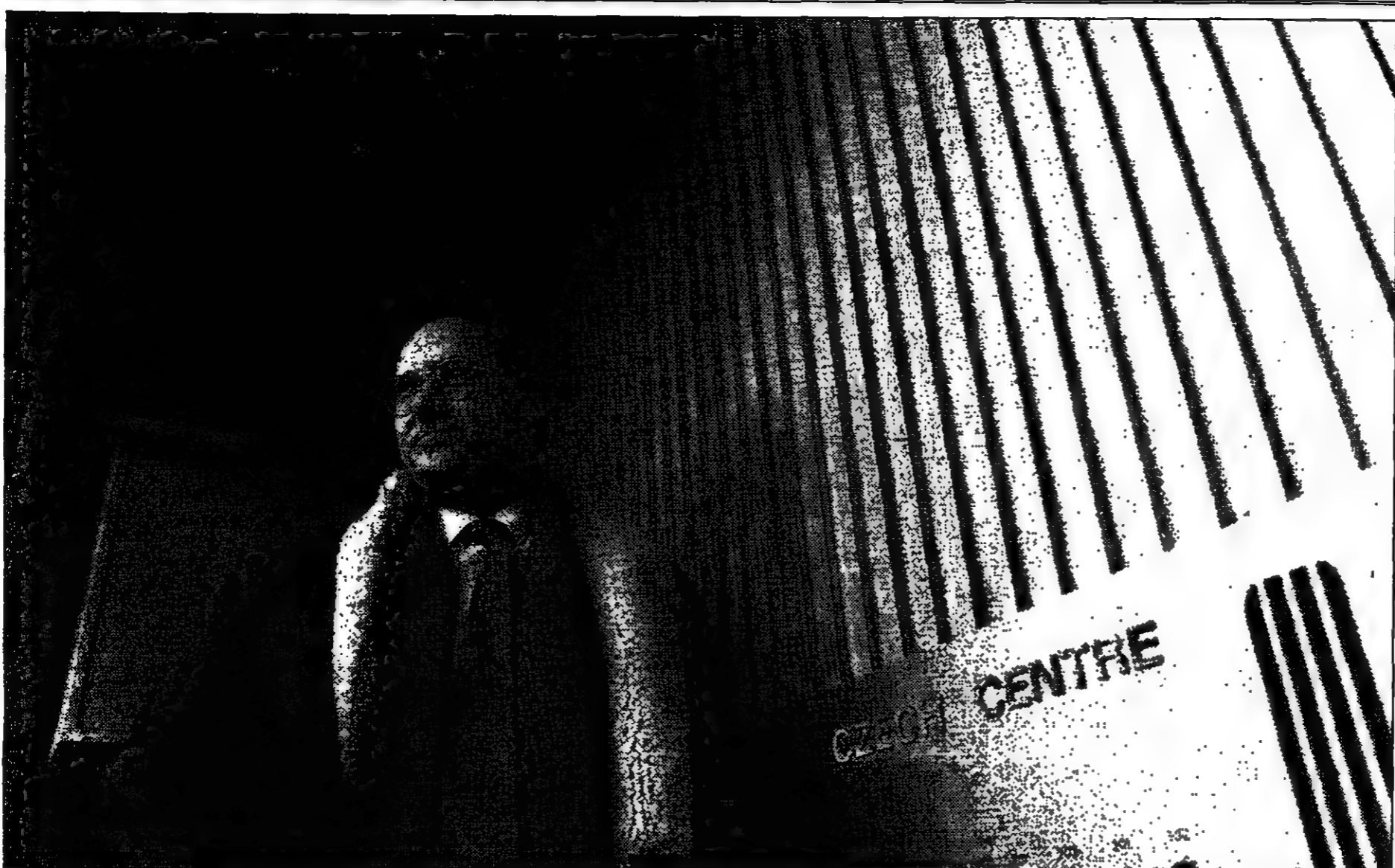
remains frustratingly ambiguous. The signals conflict — doubtless designed so on occasions. Sometimes the emphasis is on security. The connection between the two is arbitrarily and inconsistently made. Ask yourself what is this country's policy aim over Northern Ireland and even now the answer is opaque. The same can certainly not be said of the IRA. The IRA's aims are what they have always been — the expulsion, by force if necessary, of British rule from Northern Ireland and the formation of an all-Ireland republic. They reaffirmed these aims only on Thursday after their meeting with John Hume. It is axiomatic that there is no real disagreement among republicans about these aims, and that there is no existential crisis in the IRA. There is no philosophical debate in its ranks about what the Chartists used to call the moral force versus physical force argument. Both remain acceptable means to the 400 or so militants who comprise the IRA. The argument about cease-

fires, such as it is, is wholly tactical. The aims of the IRA struggle have not been altered. Just occasionally, there is a hint from Gerry Adams and, especially, from Mitchell McLaughlin that a limited compromise might be possible. In 1988, Adams spoke of the need for "Northern majority consent" to reunification. McLaughlin has echoed the phrase more than once. It is just possible that some republicans would be prepared to accept Northern consent in return for some form of London-Dublin condominium over Ulster, especially if they have persuaded themselves that Ulster's population trends will produce a Catholic majority within a decade. Yet even this speculation begs the earlier and more difficult question about where Britain really stands. The furthest that the Government has ever gone towards this hypothetical deal with the IRA is the Peter Brooke phrase, now embodied in the joint framework document, about Britain not having a "selfish or strategic interest" in Northern Ireland. But it is a big leap from

there to accepting a condominium, or any other form of shared or diluted sovereignty solution. No such leap has been made and, indeed, Britain has always firmly denied any willingness to agree to such a solution. **W**HAT is clear is that Britain has a policy aim of ending the violence. Quite apart from the normal human preference for peace as against war, the peace process began because Britain was finding the price of the Ulster conflict too high. The explosions in the City and the threats to Heathrow had ever greater implications than the already high and seemingly unending security commitments in Ulster. After the IRA ceasefire took root in August 1994 it sometimes looked as though the only aim that really mattered in British policy had already been achieved. Having got the ceasefire, London seemed in no hurry to go for a political solution. If that was true, even at a subconscious level, then the end of the ceasefire shows that

it was not an adequate approach. The Canary Wharf bombing marked a policy failure for Britain, which the Government has appeared very eager to remedy ever since. Last week's Major-Bruton communique showed an agreed sense of urgency which had been lacking on the British side before. It is simply untrue to pretend that British policy has not been influenced by the resumed bombing campaign. But where is that policy aiming? The question still demands to be asked. If, as logic suggests, the answer is towards some sort of new Anglo-Irish constitutional settlement in Ulster, then Britain is going a very odd way about it. Instead of approaching each step in the process as an opportunity to secure such a goal, the Government gives every appearance of being dragged and chivvied there against its better judgment by the Irish. The logic of British policy is that Britain ought to get round the table with Sinn Féin. But instead we seem endlessly determined to place conditions in the way of that outcome. If

John Major really is a peace-maker, then on too many occasions he behaves like a very reluctant and grudging one. This week's communique was a case in point. Although it was a breakthrough in terms of earlier conditions on Sinn Féin participation, it promptly imposed fresh ones in their place. These included a ceasefire before ministerial talks, and agreement to the Mitchell Report before Sinn Féin can take part in substantive negotiations. It is undeniable that the latest bombings have introduced new problems, but in the confusion London seems unable to remember where its interests lie. The current excessively conditional approach gives us the worst of all worlds. It reassures no one, and it sows suspicion everywhere. It is difficult to believe that Major seriously fears for his Commons majority, especially when Labour supports the policy. The fact that he takes away with one hand what he gives with the other suggests that there is a crucial lack of clarity in the Government's purpose towards Northern Ireland.



A man of many faces... the former dissident Jan Kavan can now safely appear undisguised, here in London

With former eastern bloc countries still uncovering skeletons left in communist cupboards, **JONATHAN STEELE** reports on how one Czech ex-dissident has cleared his name

When the saints are accused of sinning

JAN KAVAN reached into a drawer and pulls out his collection of British passports. In each one the photo is different. Sometimes he sports a beard, sometimes a fair piece. In this one he wears glasses, in that one he doesn't, and in every passport he has a different name. Fitted out with this array of covers, Kavan ran one of the cold war's most successful efforts to undermine communism in eastern Europe. From a base in London he organised a secret delivery service which smuggled documents and opposition literature from Czechoslovakia to western Europe, and sent letters and political messages back. British couriers with papers strapped to their bodies and tourists driving camper vans with false compartments brought tons of forbidden material through the Iron Curtain over a period of almost 20 years. The first underground statement by Alexander Dubcek, the deposed leader of the Prague Spring, came out this way. So did the rousing essay, 'The Power Of The Powerless', by Vaclav Havel, the country's leading dissident who became Czech president when the communist regime collapsed. At the height of the campaign, Kavan risked his life by making three secret trips to Prague. On one of them, without being spotted by the secret police, he managed to meet Havel to co-ordinate the opposition movement. The extraordinary success

of Kavan's escapades prompted some Czechs to wonder whether he was not playing a double game. Could he be linked to the STB, the local equivalent of the KGB? After the velvet revolution which toppled the communists in November 1989, files emerged which showed that as the official London representative of the Union of Czechoslovak Students in 1969 and 1970, Kavan had regular contacts with the cultural attaché of the Czechoslovak embassy. The 500-page file also revealed that the diplomat was an STB agent. In the polarisation of post-communist politics, Kavan's enemies — some of whom had known him closely as dissidents themselves — demanded he resign his recently acquired seat in parliament. Kavan refused and took the Ministry of the Interior, the STB's legal successor, to court. Justice in the new Czech democracy works at a very slow pace, and it was only a few days ago that Kavan finally won his case. He had always maintained that he had not known the man's true job. In the chaos of the "normalisation" which followed the Soviet invasion, it took the new regime several months to purge the country's huge political bureaucracy. Kavan's contact presented himself as a supporter of the Dubcek reforms, and Kavan had been asked by the students' union to maintain links with the embassy. Now the Prague City Court has definitively ruled that Kavan was not a collaborator, did

not pass any information to the STB, had not fulfilled any tasks for it and was not aware that his contact was an agent. The Ministry of the Interior was denied leave to appeal. It was final vindication for a man who must rank as one of the greatest self-taught amateurs of the cold war. "It was all very John Le Carré-ish. His books were a very useful source, and we got a lot of tips from them about codes and things. None of us were professionals," laughs Richard Molinoux, who helped with the courier service from start to finish and made four trips himself. "The Czechs never penetrated our set-up. They probably thought that if you were sensible you'd never run it from England. It would be more practical to send vans from southern Germany or Austria rather than from across the Channel. They also couldn't believe it would be run on such an unprofessional basis. The one thing we really did was keep it on a need-to-know basis. It was for the security of the drivers. They never knew who they were dealing with at the other end in Czechoslovakia." Molinoux formed a core group with three other friends, Trevor Roberts, a tree surgeon, Peter Gowen and April Carter, both lecturers. They would find sympathetic Britons to go in by plane or train as tourists, carrying letters and books for dissidents. The toughest role went to the drivers who took vans which Kavan rigged up with false floors and secret compartments to carry copying equipment and political journals. Most people did the trips just once. It was a concrete way of doing something without making a statement or agitating. The risks were much higher for the Czechs. Petr Fikant was sacked from his university lectureship after the Soviet invasion and forced to find work as a stoker in a factory. When the regime fell, the wheel turned and he briefly served as the first non-communist prime minister. Now back in his comfortable offices in the Law Faculty of Charles University, he recalls the stress of running the clandestine supply route for four years. "My wife always guessed when a van was due. I became very nervous. A postcard would reach me, sent from anywhere in Europe. It would always contain a date. I would add 10 and then wait on that

day at a particular time by the St Nicholas church in Prague's Mala Strana," he explains. The courier service had its chaotic moments. Molinoux remembers one young English woman who was escorted by a policeman late one evening in central Prague just after she had arrived. "She had letters hidden in her underwear. The policeman frisked her and took her to a bar. She went along with it, until she realised she was being sucked into exposure. Either she would have to go back to his flat or, if she turned him down, he might arrest her and have her searched. She kept on drinking with him until he was so plastered she found a way to run out of the bar." The delivery system's first and last disaster occurred in late April 1981. The STB had managed to get an agent into the venerable Czech end of the operation. A local warehouse full of forbidden material, was

direct haul, setting off on secret trips himself. It was reckless stuff but Kavan saw himself as an avenger. His father, Pavel, had left Czechoslovakia during the second world war. After rearing to an English school-teacher, he served the new communist government as a diplomat in London until being recalled in 1960. Arrested and detained in secret for more than a year, he emerged as a key witness in a Stalinist show trial, receiving a 25-year prison term. Although released in the Khrushchev thaw, his health was weakened and he died of a heart attack at the age of 45. The tragedy gave his son, Jan, a fierce determination to resist Stalinism. Kavan decided to use his British citizenship to advantage. His series of British passports led some Czechs to suspect he must have been a western agent. But Kavan had found that, at the cost of around £20 in solicitor's fees, he could at any time change his name by deed poll, take in his passport, and have it cancelled in favour of a new one. There was nothing illegal, and he never had more than one valid passport at a time. Petr Uhl, who arranged Kavan's secret meetings with Vaclav Havel and other prominent dissidents, acknowledges they were highly risky. "But Kavan is a gambler, an adventurer. He's got many faults, and always had money trouble. But he gave his life to this cause. He's not dishonest, or the sort of man who would collaborate with any secret service." Uhl recalls talking to Havel about the wisdom of Kavan's secret trips after another dissident in Sweden wrote Havel a letter complaining that by using false passports Kavan was "behaving like a terrorist". In one of the periodic raids

on Havel's house the letter was discovered, alerting the police to Kavan's trips. When the first mass demonstrations started in November 1989, Kavan was so eager to get back to Prague that he used the same passport without changing his name. This time he was detained at the airport and interrogated for several hours. By then the pendulum of reform was swinging, and although Kavan was picked up in the two days later for more questioning, the police let him go without any charges. They had started to look to their own futures. Secure in victory, the dissident movement began to split. The more liberal Havel-Kavan wing was squeezed out by right-wingers grouping themselves round Vaclav Klaus, a back-room economist who played no role during the decades of quiet resistance and is prime minister today. In the rush to adopt a Thatcherite version of the market economy, Kavan's social-democratic views, his links with the western peace movement, and his example of heroic opposition to Stalinism were a moral and political threat. The conservative press regularly smeared him and others by selective use of leaked police files and videos. Petr Fikant believes the smears also had a deeper background. Instead of admiring the handful of Czechs who kept the flame of honesty alive during the Soviet-imposed "normalisation", the silent majority wanted to believe the dissidents were insignificant. It would justify their own capitulation. For the first time for many years Kavan looks something approaching relaxed. A stocky figure with a limpet-like attention to detail and an obsessive intensity, he often exasperated journalists in the cold war period when he headed the latest dissident appeal from Prague around Fleet Street. Under constant financial and political strain, and with the stress of his secret trips behind the Iron Curtain, he rarely urbane. After 1989, the false accusations soured what should have been years of triumph. His father's early death has been a constant factor in Jan Kavan's mind. At the age of 48, he has already suffered two heart attacks. Rehabilitation will permit him to stand for parliament again. Elections are due in June this year, and Kavan's vindication — though not only for that reason — has not come too soon.



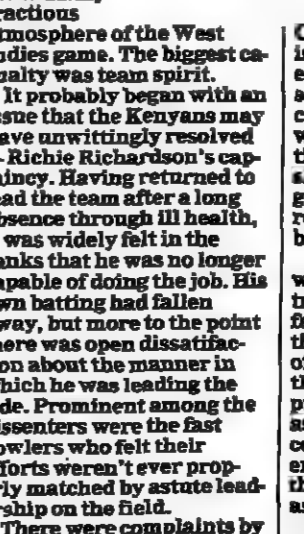
Meeting point... St Nicholas church in Prague, used as a drop-off by the dissidents

Beaten by a team of part-timers? We deserved it

TREVOR McDONALD on the Windies' humiliating defeat in the World Cup

THE real shock is that the Kenyans were the ones to do it. But that the West Indies were humiliated by a team of enthusiastic part-timers should have come as no great surprise. The decline of West Indies cricket has been gradual but inexorable. For some time now it's been slipping from its once Olympian invincibility into the shadow of national disgrace. This widely known in the Caribbean, but the administrators of the game there appear to have neither the power nor the resolution to arrest the slide. The West Indies were extremely fortunate to escape with a drawn series in England last summer. For that, as usual, they can partly thank

England, because long before they arrived here, beaten by the Australians, the team was a seething cauldron of controversy, dissent and bickering on a scale almost unknown even in the perennially fractious atmosphere of the West Indies game. The biggest casualty was team spirit. It probably began with an issue that the Kenyans may have unwittingly resolved — Richie Richardson's captaincy. Having returned to lead the team after a long absence through ill health, it was widely felt in the ranks that he was no longer capable of doing the job. His own batting had fallen away, but more to the point there was open dissatisfaction about the manner in which he was leading the side. Prominent among the dissenters were the fast bowlers who felt their efforts weren't ever properly matched by astute leadership on the field. There were complaints by some players that pre-match strategy meetings which Clive Lloyd and Vivian Richards employed to develop and preserve the culture of success had become a pale imitation of themselves, where they had not disappeared altogether. As a result there was constant speculation and there were rows about team selection. It was frequently difficult to decide who might be chosen to open the batting. Coaches are chosen to satisfy the narrow interests of each of the islands represented in West Indies cricket. The rest of the world has moved with the times. South Africa has shone under Bob Woolmer's guidance. West Indies arrogantly assume they can break the trend. And to think that all the while, as the team gazes, transfixed, into the abyss of failure, there is someone of the inspirational brilliance of Clive Lloyd, standing in the wings, waiting to be properly asked. It's almost as if West Indies cricket has come to rely on its own legendary past, and to believe that success must come to it as of right. Hege says that the owl of Minerva flies only at dusk. Which is to say that organisations never examine themselves until their fortunes are at their nadir. Kenya might have done West Indies cricket a favour. The West Indian islands must stop fighting among themselves about team selection; the Board should sack the captain, appoint a full-time coach and tell their players they must represent the interests of the team or get out.



Trevor McDonald... 'the rot had set in long ago'

WHY SETTLE FOR LESS? CALL 0500 800 850

The longer you put off thinking about a pension, the more it will cost to provide for a comfortable retirement.

FOR STRAIGHTFORWARD PENSION ADVICE CALL ABBEY LIFE ON FREEDOMPHONE 0500 800 850

AbbeyLife

ASSURANCE

ABBAY LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED, REGISTERED OFFICE IN HOLLANDWAY ROAD, BOURNEMOUTH, HANTS. BURNINGHAM ROAD, BURNINGHAM, LEICESTERSHIRE. THE FINANCIAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY AND A MEMBER OF THE IFAAN.

16 LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A word or two on that book

ONE thing in the first extract that you published from Peter Mandelson and Roger Liddle's book (The Super...

As the reputed peerless Tory cost-cutter, might not Redwood have concentrated on how New Labour will ever pay for their "wish-list"?

PETER Mandelson and Roger Liddle may have given the impression that the alternative vote is a system of proportional representation...

IN Wales, health, local government, education, transport and environment are controlled by a devolved administration run by a Secretary of State...

John Wynner, 7 Allington Gardens, Bridport Dorset DT9 6HL.

CUT the "Big Brother" waffle, get tough on the causes of disruptive behaviour. These children do not live in leafy suburbs...

FROY Hattersley is the Ted Heath of the Labour Party (Letters February 26). It is because Tony Blair appears to have become its Baroness Thatcher...

Myths on tourists exploded

YOUR REPORT that tourists will not be deterred by the IRA bombs from visiting London is ridiculous (Tourists sniff at danger, February 26).

Our travel agent readers all over Europe are already reporting that customers are cancelling trips to London and rebooking other cities instead.

As your story rightly said, American tourists are not cancelling. But that is not the good news it may seem.

ings yet for the summer — so they don't have reservations to cancel. Many are unlikely to consider plans for London at all this year.

The British Tourist Authority would do well to stop this PR nonsense claiming that tourism will not be hurt by the bombs.

What hope is there for our "elite's" education at Oxford when they are tutored by the likes of Prof Stone? His demeaning atti-



Squabbles over the royal divorce

Cutting the hot air, clean up the dirty air and green will change to red

PROFESSOR Norman Stone writes: "We were told that 85 per cent approved of Princess Diana's appointment as patron of the Royal Cancer Campaign."

I SEE that Princess Di pays her "media consultant" £55,000 a year. That is £700 a week. My highest wage as a hospital cleaner was 75 pence per hour.

DIANA says she doesn't regret her marriage and has always loved the Prince of Wales. As to the former, well, who would regret instant glamour, great wealth, the endless publicity she's addicted to, and a splendid residence?

PRINCE Charles wants to call himself some weird title of Defender of Faiths

upon his accession to the Crown. Those royal experts bothered about this should get a brief of the facts of this title. Henry VIII was mightily vexed that his cousins in Spain and France were, respectively, "Most Catholic" and "Most Christian" majesties.

THE Princess of Wales agrees to a divorce in the same week that the IRA are found to be targeting members of the royal family. More than just coincidence surely?

IF Charles and Diana had married under a New Law, instead, would they have had to pay back their £5,000?

TONY BLAIR need not wait for a Labour Government to promote energy conservation measures. After three years of intensive lobbying and coalition building, the Green Party's Energy Conservation Bill won cross-party support last year and became an Act.

you love, and her own private life has been singularly undignified. The self-styled Queen of the royal family, who represents this country abroad. Alas, she probably represents us only too accurately — false glamour, false values, relentless self-interest and an inflated idea of our own importance.

THE Princess of Wales agrees to a divorce in the same week that the IRA are found to be targeting members of the royal family. More than just coincidence surely?

IF Charles and Diana had married under a New Law, instead, would they have had to pay back their £5,000?

TONY BLAIR need not wait for a Labour Government to promote energy conservation measures. After three years of intensive lobbying and coalition building, the Green Party's Energy Conservation Bill won cross-party support last year and became an Act.

ever, that Mrs Thatcher chose the same vehicle in 1986, the Royal Society, to jump on the green bandwagon — and what a lot of empty rhetoric that turned out to be. Peter Barnett, Editor, Green World, 49 York Road, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 3JD.

NICE ONE, Mr Blair, I thought. And then I cycled to work and I whizzed past a line of stationary cars, a belching incinerator and got ascribed between two stinking buses. I stopped a workman to ask: "Why are you cutting down this 100-year-old oak?" and he replied: "It is Manchester's Labour Council policy."

SO A speech by Tony Blair has finally mentioned the environment, a mere 18 months after his election as Labour leader. By contrast, it is difficult to find any major speech by Paddy Ashdown which has not mentioned the environment.

ON nuclear power, thanks to Jack "Glow in the Dark" Cunningham, it's "un... er... ah... they'll get back to us. As for investing in energy efficiency, Blair's prediction that utilities will volunteer to cut their income by providing the funding is laughable even by Labour standards of costings. Iain Cameron, 24 Plymouth Wharf, Saunders Ness Road, London E14 3EL.

A healthy profit

YOUR report (Urgent bill brings Dorrell to Harman, February 26) alleges that the arrangements for offices for the NHS Executive Northern & Yorkshire "ended in financial loss". This is not true. The sum realised for sale of the former Harrogate office was in excess of its assessed market value.

Beware Chirac's call to arms

I HAVE the greatest respect for Will Hutton's writings on economics and economic policy, but his Commentary (February 26) shows that his mastery of European defence policy is less complete. He argues that the UK should take the lead in forging a defence policy for Europe, and because France is in the throes of major restructuring it is uniquely placed to do so.

At the root of it

SOMERVILLE and Ross, authors of the uproarious book quoted by P B W Raymont (Letters, February 26) were themselves quoting, according to J H Newman (the later cardinal) in a little book on The Arians, in the early Christian church in Alexandria the church leaders charged with instructing prospective converts taught them first the simpler doctrine of Christianity, reserving the more difficult doctrines till their pupils' acceptance of the faith was assured. And this, says Newman, they called economy with the Truth.

Denis menace

YOU quote Lord Deedes as saying that Denis Thatcher "got through 12 years of his wife as prime minister without dropping a single clanger" (Dear Bill: gin-soaked halfwit was all a ruse, February 26).

Labour's duty to resist terror law

THE proposal by the Labour Party to give up its opposition to the Prevention of Terrorism Act (Letters, March 1) will be a blow to all those thousands of innocent people who have been stopped, searched or detained under the Act.

A sports fan

BELIEVE that many viewers (I think at least two) would be willing to pay an extra £5 on the television licence fee to reduce the amount of sport shown by the BBC (Letters, February 26). What, may I ask, does Professor Wrang find amiss with hopscotch and tidly-winks? They're much more fun than tennis and soccer.

A Country Diary

NORTH DERBYSHIRE: A friend was recently following the hunt on foot and came across the ridge-top fields where a freezing fog hid the landscape. It was dense, clinging stuff: out of the pale blanket, Fred appeared in his shirt sleeves. He wasn't following the hounds but looking for a pair of heifers that had earlier broken out of their shed. Fred has always been sartorially perverse. In a July heatwave, he goes to market in woolly jersey and tweed jacket (keeping the heat out?).

Advertisement for Shomita, featuring a photo of a child and text: "If you sponsor Shomita, no one will have to sponsor her children". Includes details about the charity and a form to sponsor a child.

Letters to the Editor may be faxed on 0171 837 4530 or sent by post to 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1A 3ER, and by e-mail to letters@guardian.co.uk. Please include a full postal address and daytime telephone number, even in e-mailed letters. We regret we cannot acknowledge receipt of letters. We may edit them: shorter ones are more likely to appear.

most difficult in summer drought, when a ditch has to be opened up to lead a trickle from the damp shadows of Grange Wood in an attempt to at least keep the trough moist. These chill days at the end of winter see Fred with his sleeves rolled up as he splits logs originally dragged to fallen branches from the wood-edge. There hardly seems any reason to have a fire indoors because he generates so much heat in reducing the fuel to convenient pieces. At the end of the day, though, when he's fed the heifers and put the fowls to bed, he needs a hot drink and it's then that anyone coming down the bridleway beside the silted back woods will see the red sparks shooting from Fred's kitchen chimney. The houseplace fire serves another purpose: not possessing a hot-water bottle, Fred adopts the old way — a brick stands in the fireside oven all evening and goes upstairs with him when he retires. ROGER REDFERN

If you can't stand the heat... get a takeaway

GET off my back, Delia. I can tell you where to stuff your peppers. I'm not buying your book. Can't cook, won't cook. And won't feel guilty about it anymore.

Why should women who can design cities, build bridges, tinker with brains and surf the net, be made to feel they must pulverise pumpkins when they get home? Most men who hate cooking just ignore it and it goes away.

I'm not against cooks. God bless 'em. What creative gift could be more sociable? The best cooking, like the best writing, is a gift from the gods. It is instinct and improvisation. Lesser mortals can get by, plodding along with recipes.

If you're a plodder who enjoys it, fine. But what if you hate it? There are two problems for the person who hates cooking: feeding the family every day, and entertaining.

Families have disparate tastes. My father is happiest eating things

which have been available in tins since 1948. My daughter likes her food minced up and reassembled as lovable animals, although she is increasingly upset by the idea of eating lovable animals *reality*. My bloke Steve is a farmer with robust tastes. How does he like his steak? "Cut its horns off, wipe its arse and stick it on a plate."

Faced with such diversity, the most sensible thing is to give up and let them feed themselves. Occasionally, I throw some spuds in the oven or assist beans on a toast — nutrition without exertion. Revisit childhood with a boiled egg and soldiers.

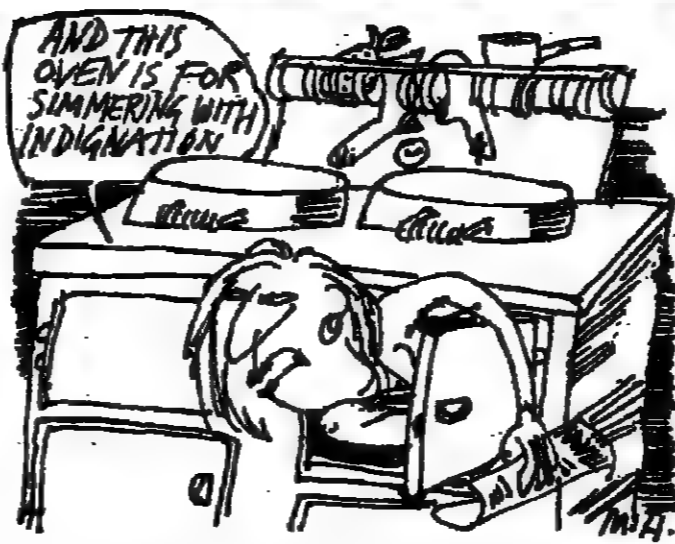
Takeaways or frozen lasagne won't kill you either. They might not delight the palate as Delia's delicacies do, but they do free you to doze on the sofa or prick out your nictitans. Eat less and live longer: it's official.

Feeding the family, then, is a piece of cake. A picnic. It's entertaining where the trouble starts.

Your friend who loves cooking offers you a magnificent feast. Eventually, you issue a reciprocal invitation. For two days beforehand you shop in a state of dread, and when the moment of cookery arrives you're too busy trying secretly to strain the gravy to listen to the conversation.

My generation have made it worse for themselves by aping the manners of our betters. We went to university and discovered that posh people had lunch and supper, not dinner and tea. Hastily we started inviting our friends to dinner in the evenings, not realising that the posh either had servants to cook the dinners, or had been sent to finishing school to learn how to cook, and were in a position of moneyed leisure whereby they could devote all day to it.

At the very moment when our education urged us with one bound to be free, we acquired snobberies that pitched us straight back down



SUE LIMB rebels against the tyranny of the Tuscan bean brigade and sets her table for a less stressful diet

bone china of course, and perhaps a slice of home-made cake or a cucumber sandwich. None of us would dream of saying: "Why don't you come to tea on Saturday?" because it's what our parents did. It arouses the spectre of the Spam and the Battenberg cake.

But wouldn't a revival of the tea thing be actually, as the toffs would say, rather agreeable? Two hours of talk and then back home in time to do something with the evening? Am I the only person to find dinner parties go on too long?

The evening stretches aimlessly ahead — it's nine o'clock and the Tuscan bean and basil thing isn't even on the table any more. But you can bet your boots that the Tuscan peasants would've been tucked up in bed for hours by now.

And by God, don't you wish you were, too? Instead you know you've got to go on talking and smoking and drinking, or talking and smoking and people talking and smoking and

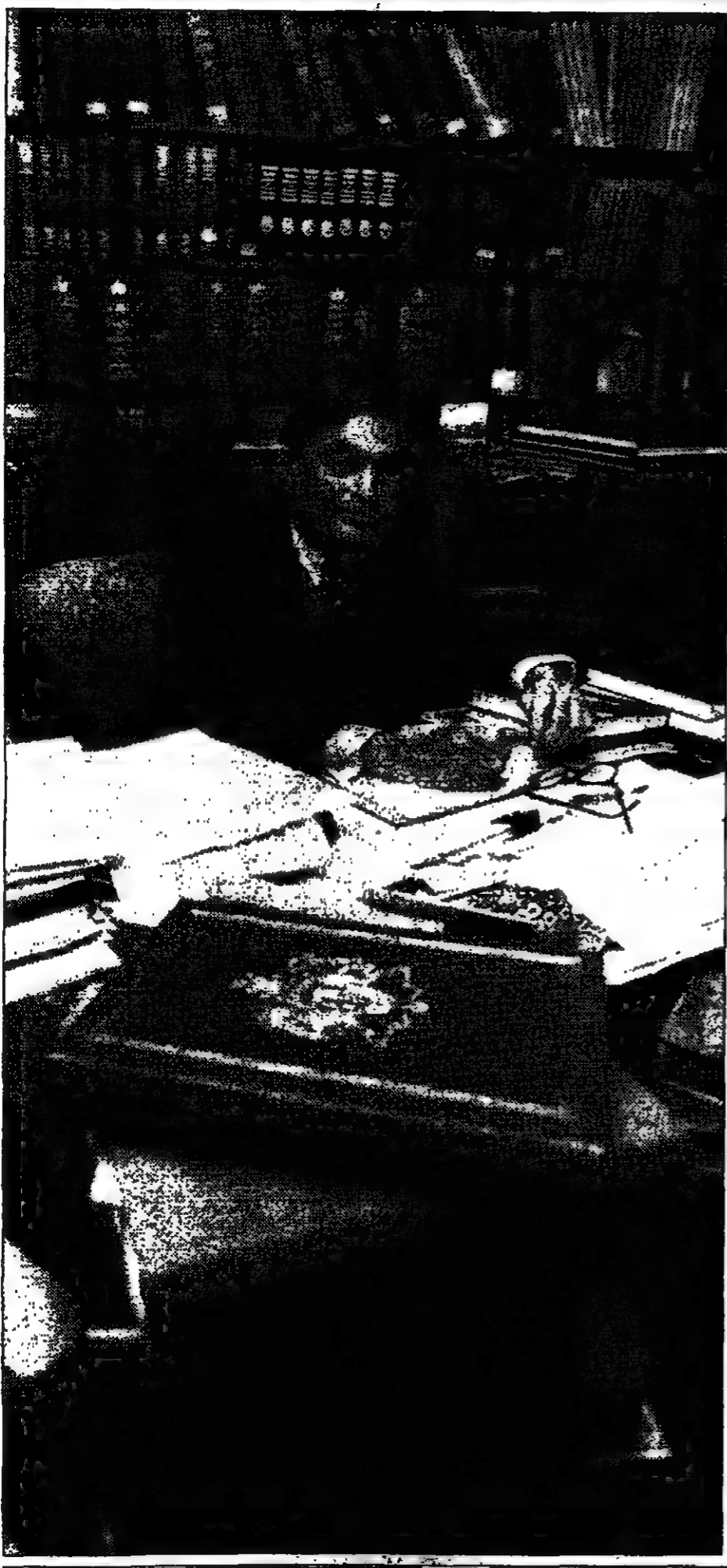
drinking, till one o'clock. I shall arise now and go down to the bottom of the garden, and a little Russian tea-house I shall build there, of birch twigs and pine-cones made, and in the summers I shall invite my friends there, and we shall wear our tea-rose tea-gowns. Even I can make cucumber sandwiches, and you can buy wonderful home-made cakes every Friday at the WI markets. And we shall say good-bye at six o'clock before we have got sick of each other, and part refreshed.

Good cooks will always amuse themselves and please us by roasting and pulverising their pumpkins and grinding their own spices. But let's not make the pestle and mortar into the hammer and sickle of culinary correctness.

The rest of us should have the guts to turn our pumpkin into a glass coach, and then rattle off merrily into the sunset.

Defending the nobles from the knockers

With Britain's aristocrats in royal turmoil **JOHN CUNNINGHAM** meets the man behind Burke's Peerage. Photograph: **GARRY WEASER**



ANOTHER bad week for royals. "How's the old goat?" asks Prince Charles unaware yesterday that, in the midst of spousal spats, some might not know he was asking about the mascot of the Royal Regiment of Wales. Bad for aristos, too. Did the Duke of Atholl's obituary in the Times have to reveal that Lindi St Clair (Miss Whipplash), once sent her own porn video to two Scots' most perennially eligible bachelor. The obituary then added "he was trampled by a herd of cows in 1993."

In such cruel times, the nation should be grateful to Harold Brooks-Baker. We look to him because the marbled-bound mantle of Burke's Peerage and Baronetage has fallen on his shoulders, and there is no surer voice on matters of lineage, protocol and etiquette. If we're worried about the future of the peerage, count down the young hot-bloods going wild, he's the authority to consult.

B-B's soundbites are everywhere, reassuring us that DI's divorce is a series of signals "that the monarchy has a really good chance of continuing without being blighted"; convincing addicts of tradition that the thinnest thread in the fading tapestry of the Atholl's is enough to ensure the line will go on; why, the 10th duke was a third cousin three times removed from his predecessor, but that was enough.

Yet Brooks-Baker is the first to admit that his position is a series of signals. Burke has long been out of print: there hasn't been a new and revised edition since 1970, and who knows if or when they'll be another. B-B is publishing director of the firm that owns the title but sold it off, though the company is still known as Burke's Peerage. And, most endearing anomaly of all, Brooks-Baker is defiantly not one of us: he's an American "by birth and passport."

Being an outsider suits him fine, he's the American equivalent of Alistair Cooke — cultured, urbane, everybody's social equal who manages the trick of knowing his place when it's necessary. For years he was a foreign correspondent with the world as his oyster. Britain is the pearl on which he fixates the majority of his attention. From his house in Holland Park, London, it's as though he sees the social landscape of Britain as a level playing field, with gentle, untaxing inclines.

He wears the sort of suits of which nobles are so fond. T S Eliot, would have approved. A small man, he looks youthful for his 62 years, and patiently denies that he's either shrewd or eccentric. He insists he's never overspiced the main by giving the royals, but one former Buckingham Palace press officer has had cause to wish he'd be less obliging with the quotes.

Yet he's a pundit because the media have chosen him as one of the few people to sport not to play the game. So it is that with German TV, Sky News, Newsweek and a band of radio stations clogging his phone lines on the evening of DI's divorce announcement, he can hint at the fallible side of the Wales: Charles will remarry "because he's the kind of person who almost always re-marries. They find themselves in need of a constant companion." "Though not necessarily Mrs Parker Bowles. Why not? Men very seldom marry the person they've been involved with."

You can see why toffs like him: he doesn't pretend to be one of them, doesn't name-drop, hasn't tried to marry into the aristocracy. The hypen in his name is there, not to be elitist, he says, but because French bureaucracy wouldn't let his children, educated in France, have Brooks ("It's been a name in my family for 300 years") as a middle name. So they had to become double-barrelled. Even the clubs he uses he's joined by virtue of reciprocal membership of his Paris club.

Above all, he's a selfless apologist for the nobles. You might think that the Duke of Atholl who inherited a batch of toy-town titles — four earldoms, two marquessates, three viscountcies — was a

twit, and is memorable only for demolishing the once sold some bad family silver, so that he could buy some better silver — and then died without having the house to beget an heir.

But Brooks-Baker sees the lord as fulfilling a valuable public and social function. "I think that considering that he didn't have a near relation to take the title, the idea of turning Blair Castle (the family home in Perthshire) into a museum was rather brilliant."

It's not that the majority of the people who have inherited obligations, large houses and so on have taken all that very seriously. You know, many of these people could have gone off and been playboys for the rest of their lives.

You can see why toffs like him: he doesn't name drop and hasn't tried to marry into the aristocracy

The most you will get by way of proof is this: "But obviously some peerage families contribute a great deal to the country and some do not. Perhaps from now on his will not."

It's impossible to ruffle B-B with either ire or outrage against that anachronistic slab of the social order. "I don't see why the British are always fighting about equality," he says.

"One of the problems with statements by the Prime Minister, who would like to do away with divisions in society, is that you can't more do with divisions than you can do away with interest in sex — it's part of human nature. The Russian revolution in 1917 produced 10 times the number of classes by the 1920s than we had in 1914. That is annoying and unattractive, but it's part of human nature. So if you can have a kind of balance between those who've inherited and those who've made it themselves, I would have thought you'd have a better world. And as a visitor in this country, I would say that Britain has been reasonably successful in this kind of balance."

Name any institution rid-

died with privilege and ripe for demolition, and Brooks-Baker, shrewdly fat-spined Burke's tiering behind his desk, will defend it estates so vast as to constitute wildernesses; the tottering wing of the House of Lords or London clubs, arrogant in their nameplate anonymity.

"The only capital city which has clubs with members from all walks of life is London. Many will say that White's is the most difficult to get into, perhaps it is. Yet White's has movie stars, aristocrats, stockbrokers, insurance salesmen, journalists — people from all walks of life. Do you find that true in New York? Not nearly as much."

But surely, some coats of arms have been blemished by such blemishes as Blandford, Bristol, Brockton and Moynton?

"In the 30 years I have been visiting here, there have been very few scandals. There are only a handful of the British or peers, who've been in trouble in the last few years. Considering that there are a couple of thousand peerage families, a couple of thousand baronets families and lots of unincorporated aristocracy, it's amazing how few drop out."

If he's not much worried by the second young aristos scattering their seed around, what about the shrivelled titles, the greyheads? After all, the dukes of Atholl have been famous for barren periods in their lineage, when the succession had to jump to distant scions of the family to keep the titles going.

"The British have constantly married into other nationalities and other social groups so that most of the ancient families are not exactly as effete as one might think. In fact in this country, I don't think they're effete at all. One could make a good case for the leading families in many continental families being immensely effete."

All this is seriously, even passionately meant. But behind his interest in the health, wealth and happiness of Britain's nobles, lies the fact that, though no snob himself, Brooks-Baker quickly learned he was dealing with ranks of them. And they will pay good money to indulge that snobishness. So, though Burke's Peerage may have been sold off, there is another gleam in B-B's eye: another prestige title waiting for redevelopment is Burke's Landed Gentry.

"The good thing about the Landed Gentry is that you can put in any kind of person you wish, as long as they have land holdings that are of some interest," he says, eyeing some faded volumes in his office.

"You'd have to have a committee to sit down and work out an exact recipe for the people who're going to be included. And, of course, it's much more than a venture to make money." It seems churlish to suggest that with a new edition of Burke's Landed Gentry does appear, it might be seen as the height of vanity publishing. Just what we deserve.

PETER TATCHELL says it's time gay and lesbian couples were allowed legal recognition of their partnerships

The straight and narrow definition of marriage

ASPARLIAMENT debates Lord Mackay's proposals to reform the divorce laws, there's one group of people who will be excluded from any liberalisation because they're not permitted to get married in the first place. Lesbian and gay couples don't have a choice. In law, relationships don't have a duration, same-sex partnerships have no legal recognition.

It's not that gay partnerships are automatically excluded from the law. It's that the law doesn't recognise them as legal relationships. In situations like medical emergencies, moreover, if one partner dies, the surviving partner has none of the rights that the survivor of a heterosexual marriage would enjoy automatically with respect to funeral arrangements and claims on the deceased partner's property.

To remedy such injustices, many lesbians and gay men want some form of same-sex partnership legislation. A minority favour the straight model of marriage; most prefer a distinctive alternative.

There are, essentially, three options: marriage, registered partnerships and rights for cohabitants. They're not mutually exclusive. All three could be legislated, so that gay couples can choose whichever they feel is best for them.

Ironically, the people who accuse gays of unstable relationships are also the ones who oppose any legal validation of same-sex love and commitment. This traps homosexuals in a no-win situation. Those who don't show proof of commitment are condemned as promiscuous, and those who want to demonstrate their commitment by getting married are not allowed to do so.

Marriage has, of course, an irredeemably heterosexual genesis. It's therefore arguable that this institution is not an appropriate model for lesbian and gay couples.

Even so, denying us equality in marriage law

signifies our continuing second class citizenship. It's not enough to have same-sex partners should have the right to marry. Whether they exercise that right is up to them, as it is for heterosexuals.

This was the view taken by Dutch campaigners who recently won the extension of civil marriage to gay couples, making the Netherlands the first country in the world to give heterosexual and homosexual newlyweds identical legal status and rights.

The main gay alternative to marriage is "registered partnerships", a legal innovation specifically devised for same-sex couples. Its rationale is the recognition that traditional heterosexual marriage and same-sex unions are not the same. Moreover, instead of copying uncritically heterosexual institutions, it's time lesbian and gay people created their own.

Under this "different but equal" system, gay couples would register their partnership at the local Town Hall and be accorded all the legal rights accruing to married heterosexuals. It's effectively civil marriage in all but name and ritual.

"Registered partnerships" were pioneered by Denmark in 1989, albeit in a watered-down form which excludes the right to insemination services and child adoption. More recently, Norway, Sweden and Greenland have followed suit. Even in Catholic Spain, similar legislation may soon become law.

The second alternative to gay marriage is the strengthening of the legal rights of cohabitants and the extension of these rights to same-sex couples. This would include recognition as next-of-kin and, as joint guardians of any children, entitlement to spousal benefits such as coverage by

health-care plans, and property and tenancy succession rights in the event of a partner's death.

Many lesbian and gay lovers (and plenty of straight ones, too) don't want to go through a formal, legally-binding ceremony. They stay together because they love each other, and have no desire for a state-sanctioned contract which burdens them with bureaucratic obligations.

These unformalised but very genuine same-sex partnerships currently have no legal status. Even common law heterosexual couples have few rights. Enhanced recognition for all cohabiting lovers would thus benefit both gays and straights, and move society beyond its blinkered fixation on marriage as the sole legitimate form of partnership recognition.

Peter Tatchell is a member of the queer rights group, Outrage!

NICE from £95

PALMA from £155

PRAGUE from £145

It's your passport out of here.

EM British Midland

Return fares from London Heathrow. Contact your local travel agent or call for details on 0345-554554

or book on the internet <http://www.flybritishmidland.com/>

Special fares available on selected dates and flights. Subject to availability. Travel must include a Sunday night stay. Passenger taxes will apply.

18 ARTS

Bradford has a problem, and Kay Mellor is tackling it through television. As her hit prostitution drama Band Of Gold returns tomorrow, she talks to MARTIN WAINWRIGHT

Streets paved with girls

THE boxful of sleazy sprites released in the second series of Band Of Gold, the story of danger and perversion on the streets of Bradford which relaunches tomorrow, is balanced by much more than just the standard good fairy Hope.

Guts, teamwork and an exceptionally realistic look at women trying to win control of their own lives will be presented on ITV - with the encouragement of West Yorkshire's chief constable Keith Hellawell, among others - under the guidance of a bewitchingly youthful granny, Leeds playwright Kay Mellor, now 43, has been slugged off for trashing Yorkshire's neighbouring, problem-beset city, attracting kerb-crawlers to Bradford from as far away as Germany.

There is a problem on Bradford's streets. I didn't put it there, any more than Leeds did put unemployment into Liverpool, she says robustly, squeezing five-week-old granddaughter Grace and fussing about the baby's chin rash and the best type of barrettes or curlers. Her first Band Of Gold after realising - quite by chance, on a short cut through Bradford - just what was going on.

She felt soiled in the stomach by a girl who bobbed down to look into the car at her husband and Anthony slowed for the traffic lights. "The thoughts rushed through my mind and they wouldn't go away. She looks about 13. She's just a baby. Whose daughter is she? I've got daughters. Where are her parents? Has she got a brother? God, her legs are mottled blue with cold."

Such precise recall has been a good friend to Mellor since her early promise was dashed at Liverpool in 1962 when she went to school on Leeds's Inland Wood council estate when she was nine. She spent a week in an agony of expectation after writing a six-page essay on My Garden, inventing a whole world of fountains and lighting beams, different levels and fantastic landscaping unimaginable on Inland Wood.

"We got the work back on Fridays, face down on the desk. I turned it over and... 4/10 - Very Silly." The top mark was eight and a half for Pauline Beasha, who read her essay out - it wasn't very long - about a lawn, crocuses and daffodils. I remember thinking: Oh, so that's it.

That's what you're supposed to do. I always tell that story when I talk to teachers now. At Kay's next school, only a Mrs Davies on exchange from the United States spotted her bubbling talent and told the teenager: "I wish I could put you in my pocket and take you back to America with me. But going to America in people's pockets was not what 16-year-old girls leaving school in 1968 were supposed to do. You got a job, got pregnant or married."

Kay did the last two with her sweetheart Anthony, then a car mechanic, marrying on December 12 and moving back to Mum on Christmas Eve, thinking: that's it, I've tried, I can't cope. But she - and he - did manage, helped by relatives whose photographs, going back to Jewish Lithuania and Catholic Ireland, now crowd the stairwell of the family's big house (still in West Park, but the posh bit where Leeds University dons, Liberal peers and doctors live).

For the next decade it was nappies and tea on the table for Anthony at live, before Wwooshi, the flaxing Mellor rocket took off with an Education Rita swan, then Gordon and A-levels and the help of a drama teacher at Park Lane College, Gordon Wright, who put Kay in the pocket of Bretton Hall, near Wakefield, the theatre of Colin Welland, John Godber et al. She became an actress, redeeming a promise to Anthony that she would support the family while he retrained to look after the mentally handicapped, his own newly-discovered talent.

Meanwhile, credit where it's due - to Pauline Beasha. Kay's lust to couple her endless brainwaves with the world of crocuses, lawns and other realistic detail. "I love writing on buses, me, just listening to the way people talk," she says. Visitors should be warned that the city is a lethal place for eavesdropping writers - with Alan Bennett, another well-known silent listener in local buses and trains. "I get terribly excited when I'm watching a film, TV or a play and I see something that's accurate. I feel: Yes! Now we're talking. Especially when it's about women, because we still need more of a voice. When I started trying to write plays, every playwright I'd ever heard of was a man."

Her acting stint, both on TV and in the theatre, has been the play that she turned to Kay and said: "Do you know, I think this is about me?" The story of the Passionate Woman's dried-up marriage, past, golden love affair and story of her imprisonment in convent struck a wider chord. The play took the West End by storm and has been on tour ever since. Kay had a



Kay Mellor and (below) Band Of Gold, the TV series that was conceived when her car was approached by a prostitute... The thoughts rushed through my mind... she's just a baby. Whose daughter is she? I've got daughters. Photo: Joan Russell



memorable phone call in her bath from Sean Connery, discussing a film version (pending) and Granada snapped up Band Of Gold. By far the best result for Grammy Mellor, however, is the work-prospector hammering away in Dinah's Harrogate Road flat, where great granny, at 73, is taking off in her turn. "She's written three plays since the summer," says Kay, wide-eyed, "and my agent's excited about them. The dialogue's spot-on, and we're only ironing out one or two technical things. For instance, I told her that 14 characters was getting it a bit messy. She says she'll cut one. (Passionate Woman has four) and she says she'll change their names midway without telling the reader. Mum, I said, who's this Boris who's suddenly appeared? And she

said: Oh, you know, he's the one I called Boshov but I decided to alter it." Kay's actress daughter Gaynor Faye has meanwhile launched into Co-Operative Street as Judy Mallett, and Gaynor's elder sister Fiona is proudly busy with daughter Grace. Kay, juggling film offers, a new TV series (Girl's Night) and "a massive story for a new play in my head", looks fondly down on another potentially passionate woman, grumbling on the sofa in a Babygro. "Yes," she says with relief, "of course Anthony and I'll babysit on Friday night." Band Of Gold starts on ITV at 9.15pm Sunday. Mellor is still trying to track down the girl who inspired the story, Tracy, who was last heard of on the streets of Birmingham.

Reviews

ROCK

Bruce Springsteen
Manchester Apollo

EVERY FEW years, Bruce Springsteen fires off the high-octane rocker and slips into something a little more acoustic. He sees such phases both as a return to his songwriting roots and a way of commenting on the plight of America's dispossessed. His three acoustic albums are love-em-or-hate-'em stuff and the latest, The Ghost of Tom Joad, is the most austere yet. Like the Steinbeck character of the title, the Miguels and Bobbys of the songs are blue-collar recession casualties. The bleakness is heightened by Springsteen's spartan singing and earnest harmonica accompaniment. Difficult as they are, though, their pathos proves the rock hero is also a master of American roots music.

For the first time in 23 years, Springsteen's E Street Band have been given the winter off, and the Boss is touring solo. It's a mixed blessing - confining Springsteen to a bare stage for two hours demands a lot of both artist and audience. Urge us to hit our neighbours if they made noise, he gravely sang ballad after ballad, closing his eyes and ending every phrase with a heavy sigh. The



Hungry heart... Springsteen

breakthrough came when Bruce did turn into Brocoo about a third of the way in. On a new song, possibly called Sell It They'll Come, he even displayed a hitherto hidden sense of fun, singing "I've sold a few things myself in my time" and there's some T-shirts on your way out."

Once the balance was struck, he deftly touched nerves. The spoken preamble to Youngstown was as moving as the song, an elegy to a dying steel city. At the end of it some called "What about the Liverpool dockers?" and he nodded empathetically, probably not having a clue what they meant. Springsteen, the sly old populist, triumphs again. Bravo - now bring back to me someone called "What about the Liverpool dockers?" and he nodded empathetically, probably not having a clue what they meant.

Once the balance was struck, he deftly touched nerves. The spoken preamble to Youngstown was as moving as the song, an elegy to a dying steel city. At the end of it some called "What about the Liverpool dockers?" and he nodded empathetically, probably not having a clue what they meant. Springsteen, the sly old populist, triumphs again. Bravo - now bring back to me someone called "What about the Liverpool dockers?" and he nodded empathetically, probably not having a clue what they meant.

Caroline Sullivan

CLASSICAL

Hallé / Kent Nagano
Manchester

MAHLER'S Ninth Symphony is very hard to programme: at 75 minutes it is not quite long enough to be a concert in itself, since convention dictates that a concert should normally be just over 100 minutes, including an interval. But it is so overwhelming and universal that it can make anything that precedes it sound trivial.

So this was not perhaps the best context for the recent Hallé performance. In fact, Thomas Ades, the Hallé's composer in residence, taking its title from the Consolations Of Lady Juliana Of Norwich via T S Eliot's Four Quartets, it is for a large orchestra but consistently restrained in its

mood. The work has a strikingly individual voice, every detail confirms that in his mid-twenties Ades is already a substantial figure in our musical landscape. But the memory of the piece was almost obliterated by Mahler's Ninth.

Kent Nagano geared the Hallé to an astonishing level of power and concentration for this spiritual marathon. There may have been two moments in those opening paragraphs, but once the music takes its performance truly lit form. With a fair number of new faces in the orchestra and Lyn Fletcher as a powerful and eloquent guest leader, there was a sense of glorious incestuousness about this symphony - a work that in any case is almost always completely overwhelming. And I do not remember ever hearing the end quite so still or quite so anathematic.

David Fallowes

POP

Goldie
Brighton

AT FIRST it was called Juggles, then, when the mainstream press got wind of it, it became Drum and Bass in an attempt to remain ungendered. It is an extraordinary and uniquely British form of music in which rapid, elliptical drum patterns unfurl and spin back into themselves, and Goldie is the high priest. His album, Timeless, was one of last year's great pop albums, capturing the spirit of London in a way no record has done since the days of punk.

Like crossover successes before him such as the Prodigy, Goldie is anxious not to lose his underground credentials. His solution, rather than to keep his head down, is to take the rest of the Drum and Bass

artists with him. Thus the presence on this tour of his mentors, Grooverider and Fabio, Goldie himself may be spotted wandering through the capacity crowd in hollow-cheeked communion with his beer bottle. Nobody expects to see him, so nobody does.

The opening chords of the album's title track wash over the crowd at the Paradise, its truncated form as Inner City Life, this has become the anthem of the genre. At a full 20 minutes, guided by Lorna Harris's unfettered vocals, it's breathtaking.

The harsh and jagged Saint Anne's betrays another big influence, the hardcore techno of the early nineties. State Of Mind is straightforward and blissful soul - the perfect answer to those who believed Goldie's Mentalmash outfit could never play "normal" music.

David Brennan

Trouser trouble

Radio

Anne Karpf

ONE can't help feeling the feminisists' touch of Schadenfreude over the new interest in men's health exhibited by the current Radio 5 Live series The Trouble With Men. For years we've had programmes chock with problems for women to worry about: if it wasn't obstetric then it was gynaecological, medical and health advice seemed to be almost exclusively targeted at women,

while there wasn't even a medical specialist devoted to male illnesses. Male health was invisible. Now equality has struck, and men are encouraged to worry as much as women. A barrage of programmes about heart disease, impotence, cancer exhorts them to do this and advises them to do that. But Radio 5 Live has adopted a decidedly light touch. Among this bimodal season's offerings is a series called Men's Shorts, broadcast daily in The Breakfast Programme last week, in which Chris Barrie, alias Gordon Brittas of The Brittas Empire, worked his way in a series of brief humorous monologues from stress to baldness to the beer-gut.

Barrie has clearly been brought in as a comic device to prevent the programmes excluding any hint of nannying. Some of the pieces were both amusing and smugged in a silver of information - such as half of all male illnesses are stress-related (now, do they know?) and 150,000 men in Britain have a vasectomy each year. Yet others were so determinedly jokey and their message so banal - if you're worried about baldness, talk to your GP - that it reminded us that one of the troubles with men is that many of them can only talk about their health when it's wrapped up in humour. One other thing: 5 Live may consider itself trailblazing, but Radio 2 got there

first. It won a Sony award last year for its series of programmes on testicular cancer.

There's a new private eye on Radio 4 called Jack Dunderoo but, as he informs us, he's a private investigator who's blind. I came to Marius Brill's new four-part comedy drama series S-Laughter In The Dark with some misgivings. The assumption that because the hero is blind he somehow makes an ideal character for this pictureless medium seems naive, and using disability as a dramatic device is a risky business, prone to all kinds of clichés about blind people's superior other senses. What's more, comedy doesn't always sit easily with drama, and one watches to see which will prevail.

In the event Brill doesn't avoid all the stereotypes, but his writing is so assured and his jokes, absurdly funny, seem to flow from the pen of a man who's not just a famous singer but a search for his lost cat. In the process, he's framed for the murder of her husband and has to find the real killer in order to clear himself. Finally, he discovers that the cleaner dunnit: she's married to the butcher, match, and together they're the kind of servile cockney domestics that no pre-war British play or film could be without.

What makes the first episode of S-Laughter In The Dark is Dunderoo's narrative, a hilarious, absurdly inventive stream of patter with lines like "She was closer than a wet day in July" and, my particular favourite, "I was in more trouble than a jay-walker being interviewed by the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad." But while the first episode is thoroughly enjoyable and potentially cultish, next week's episode strains after comic effect, totally overdoes the blindness conceit, and even Dunderoo's similes become unrecognisable. The budding has been truly overegged.

Labour of love

Television

Stuart Jeffries

THE WORST thing about Catherine Cookson is that she's never bad enough to be entertaining. Oscar Wilde wrote: "One must have a heart of stone to read the death of Little Nell without laughing": if only one had been as pleasurably diverted by the travails of The Girl (ITV).

It was a three-hour cataclysm of beatings, smouldering looks, cruelty and passion that was never emotionally engaging, as surely it was intended to be. There was a Byron George, Ned, who as convention demanded owned lavish sideburns and a white horse - a steed whose destiny was to bear him and the rosebud-lipped, carefully-blonded heroine across the cheesily-backlit Northumberland hills to their dreary little trysts.

The problem for Ned was Fred, the butcher to whom Hannah was wed. Fred's threatening course when he found out about the affair briefly lifted the dialogue from the slough of despond: "I was so proud of you, so proud of my fancy wife that nobody else had. I could pull your insides out." Not an idle boast from a man who spent his working life elbow deep in viscera. But there wasn't just talk about vile violence in The Girl: a great deal of it was enacted, which was particularly shocking, since it was brutal head-butting, cudgel-wielding stuff, usually on rolling hills or in picturesque streams. All of this obscured the costume drama vistas that otherwise could have been sponsored by English Heritage.

In principle, there is nothing wrong with romance in fiction, but it at least has to be romantic. The Girl, like a corpse in passion's clothes, was never romantic. It just went through the rituals of romance. For some there may be much that's reassuringly familiar in this, in its spiritless obnoxious before dead convention, but the no one would mistake it for the real thing.

Hannah and her misters - was there ever a love triangle so confusing? Thank heaven for Fred's vile mother, played by Susan Jameson as a homage to Ems Sharpley - her arms crossed, her lips pursed, rocking smugly on her heels as she upbraided smoozy madam for not taking the coal scuttle clean, or some similar offence against Protestant ethics. She had a nice line in insulting her son, too - "you clumsy great ox", "you stupid great loud" - a four-word abusive tirade, with "great" always bobbing into the thick of it like a punch-drunk referee.

Protestant ethics received short shrift in Roseanne (C4), in a humourless but properly revisionist account of the meeting between native Americanism and the Puritan Fathers. DJ appeared in a Thanksgiving School Pageant to act out that encounter, with the Protestant interlopers whipping off their cloaks to reveal two Pulp Fiction hitmen who blew their hosts away - an unsuitable but biting metaphor for the imperialist project.

It's sad to see the ruin of Roseanne, a once-great comedy show. This has been a series too far, cosy like French and Saunders in its self-indulgence. If there is another scene of Roseanne and the cast playing with her baby, the sour curses who have loved the series for so long may have to renounce it for good.

THEATRE

Sisters, Brothers/
The Ogniski Polonaise
The Gate, Notting Hill

THE GATE's season of modern European plays is one of the most important things happening in London theatre. What emerges after the first four plays, is the post-modern pluralism of new European drama: almost everything hinges on our ability to pick up a work's cultural references and associations.

In the case of the latest double bill - Stig Larsson's Sisters, Brothers (1994) from Sweden and Nikolai Kolyada's The Ogniski Polonaise (1983) from Russia - the key influences are, respectively, Chekhov with a touch of Strindberg and Tennessee Williams. Larsson's play is particularly good: it's the story of three sisters and the actress, solitude and alienation that exists under the surface of modest affluence. Aina, a young unmarried mum, throws a party for her two sisters and their

lovers. What starts as social comedy turns into a sombre revelation of family manipulativeness and of people's impurity within their souls. David Farr's production marvellously conveys the spiritual woodworm under the ordered surface.

The Ogniski Polonaise the references are even more explicit: Tanya, the Blanche Dubois-like heroine, returns after 10 years in the US to the family's Moscow flat to find it occupied by her parents' old servants. Fred is hard to reconcile his final point about the unthinkable nature of privilege with the fact that Tanya is obviously being carted off to an asylum. But his play shows how nationalist pride and personal confusion co-exist in the new Russia. Patricia Kieran's production is weirdly surreal and Victoria Worsley is a compelling mix of madness and sanity as the heroine. The Gate season certainly proves that new European drama skilfully assimilates the past. Whether it can, or should, break free of its cultural inheritance remains open to question. (Until March 21 (0171-229 5387))

Michael Billington

Royal National Theatre

Frogs

Aristophanes' comedy
in a new musical adaptation by Fiona Laird

"HUGELY ENJOYABLE... CHEEKY, PUNCHY AND FUNNY"
Sunday Times

Cottesloe Theatre SOLD OUT: Day Seats only 0171-928 2252

ORMSKIRK Rose Theatre 4-6 March 01695 584480	HORSHAM Christ's Hospital 18-19 March 01403 282709
KENDAL Brewery Arts Centre 8-9 March 01539 725133	NEWBURY Com Exchange 21 March 01635 522733
BELFAST Lyric Theatre 12-13 March 01232 381081	CARDIFF Sherman Theatre 22-23 March 01222 230451/2

NI NATIONAL
mobile production

TRAINSPOTTING
THE PLAY

FROM 13 MARCH
RETURNS FOR A LIMITED SEASON

'One of the events of the Year' The Observer
Winner: Sunday Times Best New Play Award 95

WHITEHALL THEATRE
WHITEHALL, SW1 (OFF TRAFALGAR SQ) 0171 359 1725 244 4444

The strongest experience was to surrender to what was on the screen . . . to be kidnapped by the movie

100 YEARS OF CINEMA: SUSAN SONTAG on the decline from great art to mere decadence

CINEMA'S hundred years seem to have the shape of a life-cycle: an inevitable birth, the steady accumulation of glories, and the onset in the last decade of an ignominious, irreversible decline.

This doesn't mean that there won't be any more new films that one can admire. But such films won't simply be exceptions: that's the true of great achievement in any art. They have to be heroic violations of the norms and practices which now govern movie-making every where in the capitalist and would-be capitalist world — which is to say, everywhere. And ordinary films, films made purely for entertainment (that is, commercial) purposes, will continue to be astonishingly witless, already the vast majority fail resoundingly to appeal to their cynically-targeted audiences.

While the point of a great film is now, more than ever, to be a one-of-a-kind achievement, the commercial cinema has settled for a policy of bloated, derivative film-making, a brazen combinatorial or re-combinatory art, in the hope of reproducing past successes. Every film that hopes to reach the largest possible audience is designed as some kind of remake. Cinema, once heralded as the art of the 20th century, seems now, in the century closes numerically, to be a decadent art.

Perhaps it is not cinema which has ended but only cinephilia — the name of the very specific kind of love that cinema inspired. Each art breeds its fanatics. The love that cinema inspired, however, was special. It was born of the sense that cinema was an art unlike any other: quintessentially modern, distinctively accessible, poetic and mysterious and erotic and moral — all at the same time.

Cinema had apostles (it was like religion). Cinema was a crusade. Cinema was a world view. Lovers of poetry or opera or dance don't think there is only one way to love or dance. But lovers of cinema could think there was only cinema. That the movies encapsulated everything — and they did. It was both the book of art and the book of life.

As many people have noted, the start of movie-making 100 years ago was, conveniently, a double start. In that first year, 1895, two kinds of films were made, proposing two modes of what cinema could be: cinema as the transcription of real time (the Lumière brothers) and cinema as invention, artifice, illusion, fantasy (Melies). But this was never a true opposition.

For those first audiences watching the Lumière brothers' *The Arrival of a Train at La Ciotat Station*, the camera's transmission of a real sight was a fantastic experience. Cinema began in wonder, the wonder that reality can be transcribed with such magical immediacy. All of cinema is an attempt to perpetuate and to re-invent that sense of wonder.

Everything begins with that moment, 100 years ago, when the train pulled into the station. People took movies into themselves. Just as the public cried out with excitement, actually ducked, as the train seemed to move toward them. (Until the advent of television emptied the movie theatres, it was from a weekly visit to the cinema that you learned (or tried to learn) how to walk, to smoke, to kiss, to fight, to suffer.

Movies gave you tips about how to be attractive, such as it looks good to wear a raincoat even when it isn't raining. But whatever you took home was only a part of the larger experience of being yourself in faces, in lives that were not yours — which is the more inclusive form of desire embodied in the movie experience. The strongest experience was simply to



Going to the movies became a passion. You fell in love not just with actors but with cinema itself; above, Louise Brooks, W H Pabst's favourite face

surrender to, to be transported by, what was on the screen. You wanted to be kidnapped by the movie.

The first condition of being kidnapped was to be overwhelmed by the physical presence of the image. And the condition of "going to the movies" was essential to that. To see a great film only on TV isn't really to have seen that film. (This is equally true of those made for TV, like Fassbinder's *Bertin Alexanderplatz* and the two *Hexas* films of Edgar Reitz).

It's not only the difference of dimensions: the superiority of the larger-than-you image in the theatre to the little image on the box at home. The conditions of paying attention in a domestic space are radically disrespectful of film. Since film no longer has a standard size, home screens can be as big as living room or bedroom walls. But you are still in a living room or a bedroom, alone or with familiars. To be kidnapped, you have to be in a movie theatre, seated in the dark among strangers.

No amount of mourning will revive the vanished rituals — erotic, ruminative — of the darkened theatre. The reduction of cinema to assuasive images, and the unprincipled manipulation of images (faster and faster cutting) to be more attention-grabbing, has produced a disincarnated, lightweight cinema that doesn't demand anyone's full attention. Images now appear in any size

and on a variety of surfaces: on a screen in a theatre, on home screens as small as the palm of your hand or as big as a wall, on disco walls and mega-screens hanging above sports arenas and the outside of tall public buildings. The sheer ubiquity of moving images has steadily undermined the standards people once had both for cinema as art at its most serious and for cinema as popular entertainment.

In the first years there was, essentially, no difference between cinema as art and cinema as entertainment. And all films of the silent era — from the masterpieces of Feuillade, D W Griffith, Diga Vertov, Pabst, Murnau, King Vidor to the most formula-ridden melodramas and comedies — are on a very high artistic level, compared with most of what was to follow. With the coming of sound, the image-making lost much of its brilliance and poetry, and commercial standards tightened.

This way of making movies — the Hollywood system — dominated film-making for about 25 years (roughly from 1930 to 1955). The most original directors, like Erich von Stroheim and Orson Welles, were defeated by the system and eventually went into artistic exile in Europe, where more or less the same quality-defeating system was now in place, with lower budgets; only in France were a large number of superb films produced throughout this period.

Then, in the mid-1960s, vanguard ideas took hold again, rooted in the idea of cinema as a craft pioneered by the Italian films of the immediate post-war period. A dazzling number of original, passionate films of the highest seriousness got made with new actors and tiny crews, were shown at film festivals (of which there were more and more), and from there, garlanded with festival prizes, into movie theatres around the world. This golden age lasted as long as 20 years. It was at this moment in the hundred-year history of cinema that going to movies, thinking about movies, talking about movies became a passion among university students and other young people. You fell in love not just with actors but with cinema itself. Cinephilia had first become visible in the 1950s in France: its forum was the legendary film magazine, *Cahiers du Cinéma* (followed by similarly

ferent magazines in Germany, Italy, Great Britain, Sweden, the US, Canada). Its temples, as it spread throughout Europe and the Americas, were the many cinémathèques and clubs specialising in films from the past and directors, retrospectives which sprang up.

The 1960s and early 1970s was the feverish age of movie-going, with the full-time cinephile always hoping to find a seat as close as possible to the big screen, ideally the third row centre. "One can't live without Rossellini," declares a character in Bertolucci's *Before the Revolution* (1964) — and means it.

Cinephilia — a source of education in the films of Godard and Truffaut and the early Bertolucci and Syberberg; a morose lament in some recent films of Nanni Moretti — was mostly a western European affair. The great directors of "the other Europe" (Zanussi in Poland, Angelopoulos in Greece, Tarkovsky and Sokurov in Russia, Jancso and Tarr in Hungary) and the great Japanese directors (Ozu, Mizoguchi, Kurosawa, Oshima, Imamura) have tended not to be cinephiles, perhaps because in Budapest or Moscow or Tokyo or Warsaw or Athens there wasn't a

chance to get a cinémathèque education.

The distinctive thing about cinephile taste was that it embraced both "art" films and popular films. Thus, European cinephilia had a romantic relation to the films of certain directors in Hollywood at the apogee of the studio system: Godard for Howard Hawks, Fassbinder for Douglas Sirk. Of course, this moment — when cinephilia emerged — was also the moment when the Hollywood studio system was breaking up.

It seemed that movie-making had re-won the right to experiment; cinephiles could afford to be passionate (or sentimental) about the old Hollywood genre films. A host of new people came into cinema, including a generation of young film critics from *Cahiers du Cinéma*: the towering figure of that generation, indeed of several decades of film-making anywhere, was Jean-Luc Godard. A few writers turned out to be wildly talented film-makers: Alexander Kluge in Germany, Pier Paolo Pasolini in Italy. (The model for the writer who turns to film-making actually emerged earlier, in France, with Pagnol in the 1930s and Cocteau in the 1940s; but it was not until

the 1960s that this seemed, at least in Europe, normal.)

Cinema seemed reborn. For some 15 years there were new masterpieces every month, and one allowed oneself to imagine that this would go on forever. How far away that era seems now. To be sure, there was always a conflict between cinema as an industry and cinema as an experiment. But the conflict was not such as to make impossible the making of wonderful films, sometimes

within and sometimes outside of mainstream cinema. Now the balance has tipped decisively in favour of cinema as an industry.

The great cinema of the 1960s and 1970s has been thoroughly repudiated. Already in the 1970s, Hollywood was plagiarising and banalising the innovations in narrative method and editing of successful new European and ever-marginal independent American films. Then came the catastrophic rise in production costs in the 1980s, which secured the world-wide reimposition of industry standards of making and distributing films on a far more coercive, this time truly global scale.

The result can be seen in the melancholy fate of some of the greatest directors of the last decades. What place is there today for a maverick like Hans Jürgen Syberberg, who has stopped making films altogether, or for the great Godard, who now makes films about the history of film, on video?

Consider some other cases. The internationalising of financing and therefore of casts were a disaster for Andrei Tarkovsky in the last two films of his stupendous (tragically abbreviated) career. And these conditions for making films have proved to be as much an artistic disaster for two of the most valuable directors still working: Krzysztof Zanussi (*The Structure of Crystals, Illumination, Spiral, Contract*) and Theo Angelopoulos (*Reconstruction, Days of '36, The Travelling Players*).

And what will happen now to Bela Tarr (*Damnation, Satanango*)? And how will Aleksandr Sokurov (*Save and Protect, Days of Eclipse, The Second Circle, Stone, Whispering Pages*) find the money to go on making films, his sublime films, under the rude conditions of Russian capitalism?

Predictably, the love of cinema has waned. People still like going to the movies, and some people still care about and expect something special, necessary from a film. And wonderful films are still being made: Mike Leigh's *Naked*, Gianni Amelio's *Lamerica*, Fred Kelemen's *Sona*. But one hardly finds any more, at least among the young, the distinctive cinephile love of movies, which is not simply love of but a certain taste in films (grounded in a vast appetite for seeing and re-seeing as much as possible of cinema's glorious past).

Cinephilia itself has come under attack, as something quaint, outmoded, snobbish. For cinephilia implies that films are unique, unrepeatable, magic experiences. Cinephilia tells us that the Hollywood remake of Godard's *Breathless* cannot be as good as the original. Cinephilia has no role in the era of hyper-industrial films. For cinephilia cannot help, by the very range and eclecticism of its passions, from sponsoring the idea of the film as, first of all, a poetic object and cannot help from inciting those outside the movie industry, like painters and writers, to want to make films, too. It is precisely this that must be defeated. That has been defeated. If cinephilia is dead, then movies are dead too . . . no matter how many movies, even very good ones, go on being made. If cinema can be resurrected, it will only be through the birth of a new kind of cine-love.

Susan Sontag



The American writer, Susan Sontag has been called one of the century's most influential and challenging critics. Admiration is often expressed in extravagant terms. The Mexican writer, Carlos Fuentes, said, "I know of no other intellectual who is so clear-minded, with a capacity to link, to connect, to relate." In summer 1993 she staged Beckett's *Waiting For Godot* in Sarajevo — never a more appropriate location, she said

POTTING
LAY
TO MARCH
THEATRE

Pictures from the golden days: *Train Pulling into La Ciotat Station* (1895) by the Lumière Brothers; *Edgar Reitz*; *The Arrival of a Train at La Ciotat Station* (1895)



Hong Kong - Enter The Dragon

Next week, in a series of special features, the Guardian's business team reports directly from Hong Kong on the colony's last days and likely future under Chinese rule.

All next week in **The Guardian**

20 OBITUARIES

The Guardian Saturday March 2 1996

Susan Bosence



Stamping her art... Susan Bosence's designs reveal great sensitivity in the way dyes and cloth combine to capture the essence of the initial inspiration

A treasury of textures

THE handblock-printed and resist-dyed textiles which Susan Bosence, who has died aged 82, lovingly produced in Devon over four decades exemplify the qualities and standards she upheld. The demands of producing textiles by this method are rigorous but the challenge of her craft was compulsive and an integral part of her life.

Education, fostered by Dorothy and Leonard Elmhorst. In 1939 she moved to Devon to become a secretary to W B Curry, headmaster of Dartington Hall School. Here she met Wilfred ("Bo") Bosence who taught in the junior school; they were married in 1942 and had three children.

Entranced by her surroundings and encouraged by friends and colleagues, Bosence began to experiment with textiles. Muriel Rose, crafts officer at the British Council, advised and Dorothy Elmhorst introduced her to the handblock-printed textiles of Phyllis Barron and Dorothy Larcher, two of the leading exponents of the in-

terwar years. She visited their beautiful Cotswold home and a firm friendship developed. Barron showed Bosence how to make her favourite indigo vat and encouraged her early line prints of flowers, spots and stripes. Subsequently she added other forms of resist-dyeing in various combinations, including frayed wax and paste, stitching, pleating and folding methods, to her range.

Her designs might appear deceptively simple at first glance, yet reveal great sensitivity in the way dyes, wax and cloth are combined to capture the essence of the initial inspiration. An important exhibition at the Ceylon Tea Centre in London in 1961 in collaboration with Annette Kok, a graduate in pattern cutting and design, proved a success and led to numerous commissions, and invitations to teach. She resisted the temptation to expand her workshop, preferring to concentrate on the designing and making, which was what she most enjoyed.

She taught at Dartington School and at the new adult education centre, whose dyehouse and printing room she planned. She also taught part-time at Farnham and Camberwell. Students who became friends and colleagues included Heather Williams, Judith Homan, Syed Ali Khan and Dorothy Marshall. In 1966 the Bosences bought a small farm with some land on the edge of Dartmoor. A stable block was converted into a workshop — with clean areas, dye gutters and hanging space for priorities. In warm weather she worked outside in the farmyard; clothes lines full of lengths in different stages of completion provided a colourful contrast to the flurry of white doves alighting on the roof of a nearby barn.

Jack Thieuloy

Erotic trips with the Jack of all joys

A SUBVERSIVE spirit, an iconoclast of genius, and an unconstrained practitioner of sex in most of its forms, Jack Thieuloy, who has died aged 64, was one of the most versatile writers in contemporary French literature.

He has tramped most of the world on foot or in clapped-out vans, and wrote some of the most vigorously poetic and outrageously frank travel books. His most famous is *L'Inde des grands chemins*, beside which J R Ackerley's *Hindoo Holiday*, Raleigh Trevelyan's *The Golden Oriole* and Rupert Croft-Cooke's *The Gorgona East* fade into insignificance.

This Jack of all joys was born in Provence, at Beaucaire, a medieval city that inspired one of his best works, *L'Opera de Beaucaire* (1960). He was always an outsider in life and in literature, but used that eternal sense of exclusion in a positive, constructive, happy-go-lucky way. His work is often very provocative, though never intentionally: what scandalised many people was to him nothing more than ordinary human behaviour.

There was also something very attractive in his mystical ramblings round the Far East, in which his libido, apparently insatiable, invented a form of Taoism, with immediate, spontaneous love for all living things and creatures. He detested Western civilisation, "a prison of joyless ugliness and forbidden pleasures".

In the sixties he was a regular in the family cottage in the Pyrenees proving an inspiring time for designing and block cutting. Bosence's only book, *Blockcut Printing And Resist-Dyeing*, was published in 1985 and in 1994 she took part in *Colour Into Cloth*, a group show at the Crafts Council in London.

Bosence's only book, *Blockcut Printing And Resist-Dyeing*, was published in 1985 and in 1994 she took part in *Colour Into Cloth*, a group show at the Crafts Council in London.

The first Thieuloy book I read was about his erotic peregrinations round the Indonesian archipelago, *Le Passion Indonésienne*, in which "passion" is experienced in every possible sense, and to excess always. The ease with which he journeys in local buses and picks up sometimes very youthful lovers in small inns or farms (despite his grubby sneakers and ragged shorts) is both comic and awe-inspiring, and his vivid de-

scriptions of scenery and daily life are unequalled in any other travel writer I know. He loved animals, and one of his most charming works is about a delightful mischievous, affectionate little monkey, *Chichi*, he brought back to Paris from India — *Mon Singe* (1980). He also wrote an excellent novel about a whale that in 1799 was stranded in the port of Le Havre, and was adored by the populace as an almost mythical creature: *La Baleine du port* (1988).

When I heard that Jack was planning a visit to Japan, I wrote to him and asked to be allowed to meet him. The love-hate he felt for the Japanese equaled my own, a most powerful conjunction of extreme emotions that makes life there a daily revelation of unsuspected wonders. Jack was stunned to find a people so well-intentioned, apparently passionless, yet who are dormant volcanoes of fevered imagination and erotic art.

HE WAS captivated, as I expected him to be, by the physical grace of young Japanese. In *La Planète Nippon* he writes of "the saffron-skinned Japanese boys, irresistible masturbators". He stayed in the cheap inns for day labourers and bachelor dormitories in Osaka, where his encounters with all kinds of outsiders like himself are described in detail.

Back in Europe from time to time, he created disturbances, and was adored by the police as in 1978, he set fire to a Monoprix department store and was given a year's suspended prison sentence. These were just some of his many misdemeanours, which nevertheless were viewed with amused tolerance by the French who loved his books.

He had recently returned from China and had finished a book about his experiences there. *Djoug*, which should make rich reading. There was poison in it, like in it and he will be sadly missed in today's staid literary climate.

James Kirup
Jack Thieuloy, writer, born February 28, 1931; died February 18, 1996

Tiny Winters

Buoyed by the bass

TINY WINTERS, who has died aged 87, was one of the most influential double bass players on this side of the Atlantic, working with almost all the major British jazz and dance bands of the thirties.

Work on Stone's 1934 recording of Reginald Foresythe's eerie composition *Garden Of Weed*, where his upward runs and his second part a sinister underpinning.

Roy Fox in his early twenties. Fox's band was packed with ambitious musicians, and Winters became firm friends with many, especially trumpeter Nat Gonella. Winters, and all but one of his fellow players, elected to transfer to Lew Stone's leadership in 1932 after Fox had unwisely tried to combine a residency at the Monsigneur Restaurant with a simultaneous engagement at the Palladium.



Tiny Winters... Irresponsible arranger and impresario Ray Noble, who borrowed Stone's band for studio work and a 1933 tour of Holland during their summer break. Stone corralled Winters into singing and he became a member of the back-up team known as "Lew's Groomers", and developed a popular comedy routine with Gonella in which the high-voiced and the low-voiced played Little Nell. He retained a fondness for dramatics, and played a gnome alongside Dudley Moore in the 1966 film *Santa Claus*.

Winters joined Nat Gonella's band in 1935, causing some confusion to discographers, since Gonella's subsequent bassist was called Charlie Winters. By this time recognised as one of Britain's best bassists, Winters was the automatic choice to play the low-voiced *Herakles Of Swing* in 1938, band killed by the outbreak of war. Winters spent much of the war in a service band thereafter playing at Hatcher's restaurant, and in the pit band for stage shows like

Annie Get Your Gum in 1947 and *West Side Story* from 1955. He was one of the local musicians whose jazz experience gave the orchestra the transcendent sound. In the sixties he was a regular fixture in the *Black and White Minstrel Show*, joining George Chisholm in the jazz and comedy interludes. In the seventies he led his own trio and in the eighties, as part of a tribute to Gonella, while appearing regularly in London with his own groups.

Weekend Birthdays

Was it suitable, asked some people, for a monk and former public school headmaster (Ampleforth) to lead a largely working-class body of lay people and their high quotient of Irish clergy as Archbishop of Westminster? That many of the doubters have been won over is evidence of the qualities for which Basil Hume, 73 today, has become renowned: modesty, tact and quiet authority.



At a time when Catholics are often as divided as Anglicans over issues like women's ministry and sexual morality, Hume is said to have remained loyal to the official line while showing pastoral sensitivity to dissenters in private. And in the political sphere, his behind-the-scenes lobbying gave a significant boost to the Guildford Four and the Birmingham Six.

His popularity is also a mark of Catholicism's up-and-coming profile as a religion, though the Catholic Church is still in decline. Hume's verdict on a recent influx of traditionalist ex-Anglicans — namely that it marked the "start of the conversion of England" — looks wise.

But as he's a monk, he is happy to take the long view of things. He famously told a group of journalists that he "could foresee a timetable" for the lifting of current rules on priestly celibacy. Asked how long this would take, he answered blankly that it "could take 300 to 400 years". More recently, he has admitted to feeling occasional regrets at not being married himself. But it is to his monas-

Death Notices

OLIVER, Elton H. (nee Stannard), peacefully, surrounded by his family, on February 27th 1995 aged 86 years. Wife of the late Leslie Oliver and mother of Martin, Richard and Karen. Funeral service in South Devon on Thursday March 7th at 2.00pm. All enquiries to E. Sergeant & Son Tel: 01782 52001

In Memoriam

BLIVEN, Margery Blomfield (nee Jagger), died 2nd March 1996. Sadly missed. Lovingly remembered by all. WIFE: David Bliven, died 2nd March 1986. Always loved and missed.

Births

DAVIS, Tim and Neva are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Paige Madison Davis on the 27th of February 1996. To place your announcement telephone 0771 611 8040

Face to Faith

Wisdom that is woman

Jeremy Goring

GEORGE Austin, Archbishop of York, is upset. The 600-year-old York cycle of *Mystery Plays* is this year introducing an unwelcome innovation: the part of God is to be played by a woman. "This," he said, "is political correctness gone mad." For him, as for many other faithful churchgoers,

the image of God is incontrovertibly masculine.

There is, however, a minority tradition within Christianity that has never regarded divinity as exclusively male. In the 14th century Mother Julian of Norwich recognised the feminine principle in the God-head. She wrote: "God as mighty is our loving Father and God as all-wisdom is our loving Mother."

Mother Julian was echoing the Old Testament view that Yahweh was not only a God of power, who intervened forcefully in the world, but a God of wisdom who, in gentler (and more feminine) fashion, nourished and sustained it. To the ancient Hebrews the divine wisdom, which they equated with the Spirit of God, was invariably feminine. Say to wisdom, "You are my sister"; said the father to the son in Proverbs. "In her," says the Wisdom of Solomon, "there is a spirit that is intelligent, holy and beneficent, humane, steadfast, sure. She is a breath of the power of God; and a pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty... She can do all things and, while remaining to herself, she renews all things."

trate the truth of this, Luke follows it with the story of the woman of ill-repute who, to the disgust of a watching Pharisee, washed the Master's feet with her tears.

The woman, welcomed by Jesus, rejected by those wise in the ways of the world, may be seen as representing the divine wisdom. She was indeed "beneficent, humane, steadfast and sure." The willingness of Jesus to relate to women, including those condemned as "sinners", was a continual source of wonder and annoyance to men who, unlike him, had difficulty in acknowledging their own "feminine side."

JESUS possessed in abundance the qualities, found in men as well as women, that are regarded as characteristically feminine — receptivity, gentleness, patience, meekness and a awareness of other people's needs. Divine wisdom became incarnate in women and children, healed the sick, considered the lilies and kept silence before his accusers. According to Luke he assured his disciples that he would bequeath to them the "wisdom which none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict." Jesus said that this Counsellor, "the Spirit of truth whom the world cannot receive," would remain with his disciples for ever. Succeeding generations of Christians, too much preoccupied with the things of this

world, have lost touch with the Spirit of truth. But some poets, close to the mind of Christ, have known and acknowledged her.

One of the most remarkable examples of affirmation I have found is in a West African spiritual movement with a very masculine-sounding name — "Brotherhood of the Cross and Star." A militant strong movement drawing followers from both Christianity and Islam, its leadership is currently vested in a trinity of living persons — a father, a son and a daughter. The role of the daughter is traditionally ascribed to the Holy Spirit.

This woman, Helen Obu, personifies order and harmony. In her words and actions she demonstrates that in the eyes of God, man-made divisions — religious, social and ethnic — do not exist. When accompanying her recently on a visit to Muslim rulers in Nigeria I saw for myself the softening influence she had on men with a reputation for being hard-liners in religion.

The Brotherhood teaches that, having passed through the Ages of the Father and the Son, we are now in the Age of the Spirit. It is a millenarian vision of great hope. The movement which is based on — but not limited by — the Bible, proclaims that this is the age foretold by the prophet Joel when God will pour out his spirit on all flesh. Now is the time for the manifestation of what St Paul called the fruits of the Spirit — love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, and faithfulness. And as the century draws to a close, I believe there are some signs at the grassroots that religious people, so long preoccupied with defining doctrines, maintaining structures and other divisive masculine activities, are beginning to submit to the leading of the Spirit.

tion for being hard-liners in religion.

The Brotherhood teaches that, having passed through the Ages of the Father and the Son, we are now in the Age of the Spirit. It is a millenarian vision of great hope. The movement which is based on — but not limited by — the Bible, proclaims that this is the age foretold by the prophet Joel when God will pour out his spirit on all flesh. Now is the time for the manifestation of what St Paul called the fruits of the Spirit — love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, and faithfulness. And as the century draws to a close, I believe there are some signs at the grassroots that religious people, so long preoccupied with defining doctrines, maintaining structures and other divisive masculine activities, are beginning to submit to the leading of the Spirit.

Jeremy Goring, formerly a Unitarian minister, is a retired academic living in Lewes

NAYLOR MICHAEL J.
- Founder and Managing Director of Endsleigh Insurance Services Limited. Died tragically in a road accident in France on the 14th July 1995 and was buried at a private funeral on the 17th August 1995. A Memorial Service to celebrate Michael's life and work will be held on the 10th April, 7pm at Tewkesbury Abbey, Gloucestershire.

Doonesbury



BY GARRY TRUDEAU



Money Guardian

Pep talk for soccer fans

Marks offers money back

Football takes a new stride into world of finance

Ian Wylie

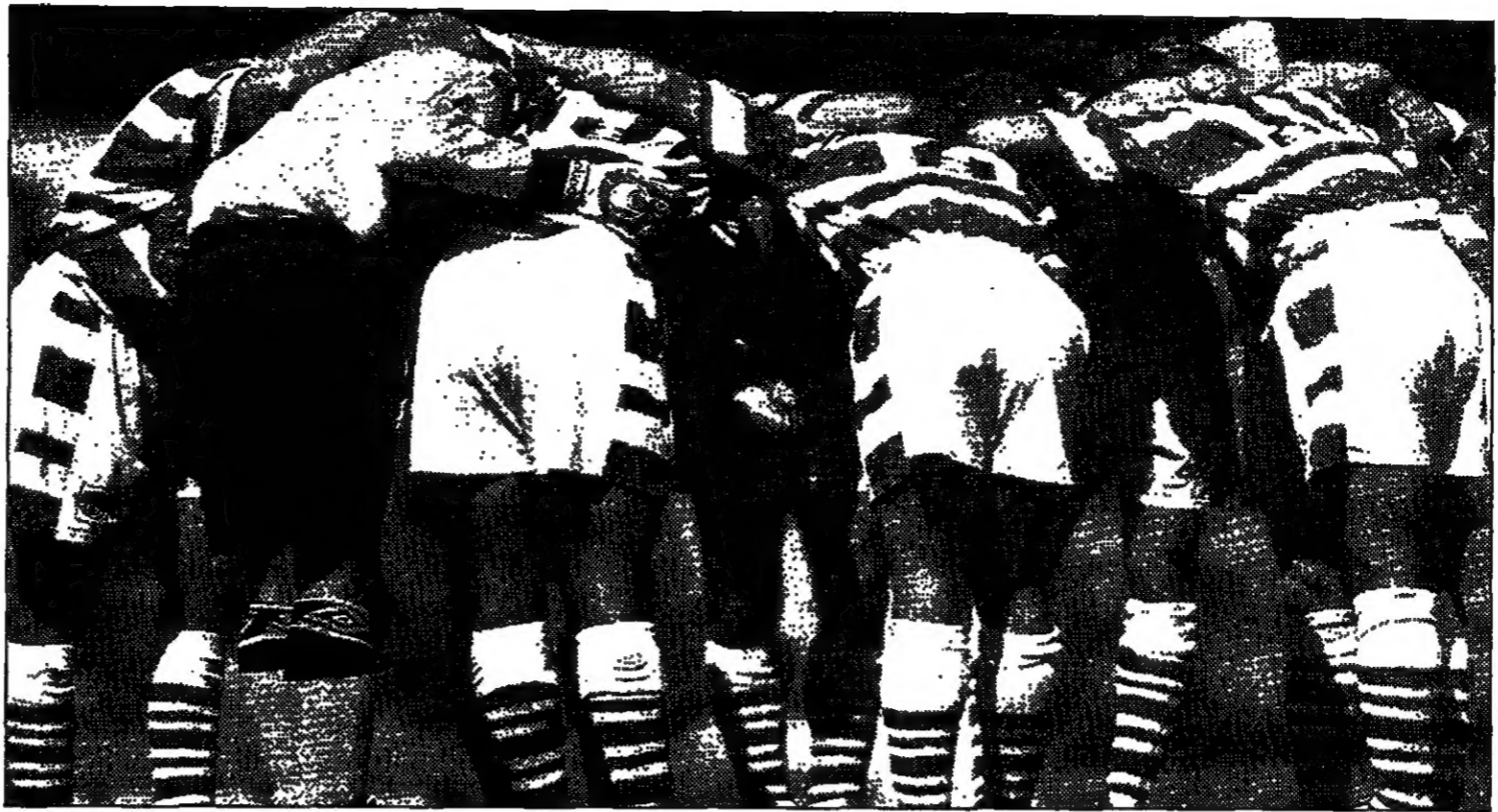
FOOTBALL took another shot at financial services this week when Glasgow Celtic became the first club to launch a personal equity plan. But while some clubs are encouraging share ownership among fans, others are making it more difficult for supporters to share in their team's success. This week saw the prices of many football shares soar as teams such as Manchester United, Tottenham Hotspur and Celtic continue their string of good results. But trading shares in some of the other top clubs such as Liverpool, Aston Villa and West Ham has become much tougher following changes to Stock Exchange listings and a miserly attitude towards fans among even the richest of clubs.

Managed by the Prudential, Celtic's Pep plan will offer fans a choice between income and growth. Initial charges are being discounted from 3 per cent to 1 per cent until the end of April, while management charges will be 1.5 per cent per annum. The Pep is being sold through Caledonian Investments, a Glasgow-based firm of independent financial advisers, but Celtic fans will be heartened that half the commission paid by the Prudential will go to the club. Last month, Celtic launched its own branded car and home insurance and a spokesman for Caledonian says the club intends to introduce a mortgage for fans within the next couple of months. When Celtic issued shares a year ago, the offer was four

The players

Premier League (Main market)	Share price
Manchester United	2.67
Millwall	0.02
Tottenham Hotspur	3.39
First Division (AIM)	
Celtic	92.50
Preston North End	4.00
Second Division (Ofex)	
Arsenal	775.00
Manchester City	0.85
Rangers	0.80
Non-league*	
Aston Villa	112.00
Liverpool	950.00
West Brom	2,800.00
West Ham	200.00

*last price recorded
Sources: JP Jenkins; Dunbar, Boyle and Kingsley



Team spirit... Glasgow Celtic has launched a Pep plan which offers fans a choice between income and growth

times oversubscribed but many fans will be disappointed that they cannot hold Celtic shares in their Pep plan, as the club, together with Preston North End, is listed on the Alternative Investment Market, the junior market launched last June for fledgling public companies. The football fan's access to tax-free returns is limited at present, because only shares in Tottenham, Manchester United and Millwall — the three clubs to gain a full listing on the stock market — are Peppable. However, broker Wise Spike manages a Manchester United single company Pep which means fans can invest their full £3,000 a year allowance in the club's shares. Other ambitious clubs such as Newcastle United will probably come to market too as a

means of fuelling their plans for domestic and European glory, but like Celtic they are more likely to choose a less onerous and relatively inexpensive AIM listing to issue shares to fans and investors. Chelsea is the latest football club to consider joining AIM. The advantage to fans of trading in AIM shares is that they can avoid paying capital gains tax if they reinvest their profits in the market. However, as there are relatively few people buying and selling AIM shares on a regular basis, investors may not be able to buy or sell as quickly as they would like, and the spread between the buying and selling price is likely to reflect this. Many of the shares now quoted on AIM were previously listed under the Stock

Exchange's Rule 4.2 on a "matched bargain" where stockbrokers advertised orders and share prices on a bulletin board on behalf of their clients. When Rule 4.2 was scrapped at the end of September, companies had two options: seek a listing or trade independently "off-exchange". Market-maker JP Jenkins has set up a facility for companies who do not want to pay the cost of joining the listed exchanges. Arsenal, Rangers and Manchester City have all joined "Ofex" which offers even less liquidity than AIM and can take weeks or even months to match buyers with seller. But at least the listing allows fans to check the price at which shares last traded. However, shares in six clubs are no longer listed on any exchange. Fans wishing to trade

shares in Aston Villa, Birmingham City, Everton, Liverpool, West Brom and West Ham must now rely on the club secretary or share registrar to find a buyer or seller and come up with a price. Mark Wheeler, market analyst with Dunbar, Boyle and Kingsley says trading in some club shares has become almost impossible. He says: "If there is no market, how can buyers and sellers agree a price? At least under 4.2 you could use the price at which the last deal

was traded as a benchmark. As it stands, fans have no guarantee of getting the best price for shares." While Premier League clubs think little of spending up to £9 million on new players, JP Jenkins says most of the former 4.2 clubs said they were unwilling to pay the annual fee of £3,000 to join Ofex for the sake of their shareholders. "It doesn't seem much in terms of transfer fees, but it's an extra admin cost which the club doesn't need," says a spokes-

man for Aston Villa, which has more than 8,000 shareholders. "Besides, most of our shareholders have held their shares since 1968 and hold them for reasons other than investment." According to the spokesman, Aston Villa is looking at "other ways of facilitating share trading that do not involve a listing" and expects to announce something at the club's AGM in August. Money Guardian is edited by Margaret Hughes

FT FINANCIAL TIMES
Magazines

ARE YOUR PERSONAL FINANCES ON TARGET?

Personal financial planning means more than just having an array of investments, a tax-free savings account and shares in the odd utility company. If you haven't yet thought of avoiding inheritance tax, made a provision for long-term nursing care or even begun to check interest rates on a regular basis, you could well be missing out some important aspects of sound investment.

In the next issue of Investors Chronicle we examine in detail all the essential elements of financial planning to ensure you are well provided for, both now and in the future. We'll advise you how to make the most of tax-breaks, help you to identify the investment products with the lowest charges, and show you how to pick the top performers amongst Peps, investment trusts and unit trusts.

So, if you're still to take out your Pep for 95/96, are having worries about self-assessment of tax or are simply wanting a few pointers for a more considered investment strategy, don't miss the Investors Chronicle guide to Personal Financial Planning with the latest issue.

On sale Friday 1st March. Price £2.00.

INVESTORS CHRONICLE
THE CITY INSIDE OUT

"7.8% tax-free and low, low charges.

And that's not all Fidelity promised me."

Every investor wants a saving with promise. Now Fidelity can give them a saving with seven of them.

Our MoneyBuilder Income PEP also gives you an excellent tax-free return of 7.8%.* And like all our MoneyBuilder products, it has no entry or exit charges.

Remember, too, we're the world's largest independent fund specialist. So, as 5 million savers would agree, we must be making more than a few good investment decisions.

MoneyBuilder Income is just part of the MoneyBuilder range — a range of products we believe to be the best value on the market. Look through the range and you'll find something that suits you, whatever your financial needs.

And that's not just promises. We promise.

If you'd like to find out more, call Fidelity on 0800 414171. The call is free and you are under no obligation.

Take a wiser line with your money.

Fidelity Direct
Take a wiser line with your money.

0800 414171
Call free 9am-6pm. Open 7 days.
Or contact us on <http://www.fid-intl.com>

*Past performance is no guarantee of future returns. The value of units and income from them may go down as well as up and an investor may not get back the amount invested. Tax assumptions may be subject to future statutory change and the value of tax savings and eligibility to invest in a PEP will depend on individual circumstances. The MoneyBuilder range consists of the MoneyBuilder Index and Income Funds, Fidelity Cash Trust and Fidelity MoneyBuilder all of which are managed by Fidelity Investments Services Limited. Fidelity PEPs are offered by Fidelity Investments Limited. All Fidelity within the Fidelity marketing group are regulated by BMO and the Personal Investment Authority. All yields are estimated and not guaranteed. *Estimated gross income calculated on 1.2%. Redemption yield is 7.1%. *These figures include those of FMR Corp., a US company and an affiliate.

22 FINANCE AND ECONOMICS

Charity sports in the City

CHILDREN'S charity was £20,000 richer last night after business people went mountain biking, running and broom-balling in the City Challenge sports event.



PHOTOGRAPH BY HAMILTON WEST

Poor performance of stations raises fears that privatisation will be followed by closures and job losses

Winter blights nuclear sale

Simon Beavis and Chris Barrie
GOVERNMENT plans for the £2.6 billion nuclear privatisation are being delayed by a winter of disastrous performances from some of the industry's key atomic reactors.

an advanced gas-cooled reactor are given special capacity payments on top of their usual earnings.

to meet a shortfall in supply are being given special capacity payments on top of their usual earnings.

its other plants will have been paid the higher prices triggered when there are capacity shortfalls on the grid system.

Electric and Scottish Nuclear is weighing up options for closing some of its worst stations.

Growing concerns that some of the seven AGRs being sold along with the £2.9 billion Sizewell B station could close early will fuel fears in the unions, which are opposing the sell-off.

Factory figures bolster case for rate cut

Sarah Ryle
CITY expectations of an imminent cut in interest rates grew last night following new evidence that the manufacturing sector is suffering from worsening demand and that inflationary pressures are receding.

the result of a continued general weakening of demand.

WELSH industry yesterday celebrated St David's Day with the prospect of 770 new jobs from a £230 million microchip plant expansion.

Richard Branson's Virgin group, which is part of the LCR consortium, has also been identified as one of the bidders for the Gatwick Express service between Gatwick Airport and Victoria station.

Ltd. Two weeks ago, the 2,900 employees who run the East Coast services were asked if they were interested in buying the service from the consortium.

DESPITE the instability caused by the rush from mutuals to the society to be sold before the Tories are defeated at the election.

Hong Kong firm's £230m microchip plant means 770 new jobs for Wales

Martyn Halsall
WELSH industry yesterday celebrated St David's Day with the prospect of 770 new jobs from a £230 million microchip plant expansion.

LCR won rail link tender with £500m lower bid

Keith Harper Transport Editor
A BID £500 million lower than the one submitted by its nearest rival was the main reason why London and Continental Railways secured the £3 billion contract to build the Channel Tunnel rail link by 2005 it emerged yesterday.

SwabGas bows to critics

Geoffrey Gibbs
SWEBGAS, the gas supplier to the south of England, has been criticised for aggressive selling methods, has agreed to open its books to trading standards officers following more than 100 complaints against the company.

Wearing well as oldest hatter carries on in £3m deal

Martyn Halsall, Northern Industrial Correspondent
BRITAIN'S oldest hat-maker, founded by 18th century Quakers and revived by late 20th century film-makers, has been sold in a £3 million deal uniting ancient and modern production methods.

Saturday Notebook

Mutuals find they still have teeth



Alex Brummer

THE warning from the Bank of England's new supervisory chief, Michael Foot, that cut-throat competition in the mortgage market could be dangerous for banks and building societies, is extremely timely.

from take-overs by public companies. At present it is far easier for a plc such as Abbey National to take control of a mutual by using its ability to issue shares, than it is for two mutuals to merge.

THE bill is not, however, even among themselves, for fear of attracting a hostile approach from Lloyds Bank or the Abbey, currently regarded as potential hostile predators.

Enter the dragon

What role will Hong Kong play for its new masters in Beijing? Will Hutton offers some surprising answers. See Monday's Guardian



Government puts battle for Lloyds Chemists on hold

Lisa Buckingham
THE battle for control of Lloyds Chemists was put on hold yesterday when the Government said it would be referring the takeover offer from UniChem to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

take Brussels three weeks to decide on a referral, during which time Gehe can pursue its bid. The Takeover Panel is understood to have ruled out any intervention, on the basis that shareholders can reject Gehe's offer if they want to wait for UniChem to re-enter the fray.

Table with columns for TOURIST RATES - BANK SELLS, listing rates for various countries like Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, USA, etc.

Australians open legal door to mine Siberian gold

Resistance to foreign participation is being overcome and a new 'Johannesburg' is opening up, reports JAMES MEEK in Moscow

A JOINT Australian-Russian company is claiming victory in a court battle over its right to mine the world's biggest undeveloped gold deposit — a Siberian ridge, Sukhol Log (Dry Gulch), thought to contain more than 1,200 tonnes of the precious metal.

But before the way is cleared for over \$1 billion (£650 million) worth of investment, Russia must declassify secret geological data about the exact disposition of the gold in the ground.

If the project goes ahead, seven years after the Australian firm Star Technology Systems first became involved in Russian mining, it will help to reassure nervous overseas investors at a time when the use of the country's great wealth of raw materials is becoming an increasingly sensitive domestic political issue.

Star has a 31 per cent stake in Lenzoloto, the company set up to exploit Sukhol Log and the surrounding goldfields, about 200 miles north-east of Lake Baikal. Lenzoloto was formed in 1992 by a decree of the then Russian prime minister, Yegor Gaidar.

The Russian general prosecutor's office has tried for three years to force the company declared illegal on the grounds that Star was awarded the right to join the project without any competition.

The case finally came to Russia's Higher Arbitration Court last week and was thrown out by the judge because its time limit had expired.

Mr MacNee, Star's vice-chairman, said the judge had

also ruled out any further questioning of the legality of the venture or Star's role in it.

Tim Razall, a Star director, said that the project had been forced to rely on a government decree to get started, because in 1990 Russian laws were contradictory. The Australian firm has already invested about \$65 million in Lenzoloto.

A spokesman for the Russian State Property Committee, which led the court defence of the government's 1992 decree, said: "We always said that this case had no future. Our legal experts always make a very serious analysis before beginning a privatisation."

"We don't know what the next steps by the general prosecutor's office will be, but what makes me sad as a Russian citizen is that many factors bearing on this depend on the development of the political situation."

Both Boris Yeltsin and his main rival in the June presidential elections, communist leader Gennady Zyuganov, have repeatedly said they want foreign investment in Russia. But the communists have also threatened to review past privatisations for irregularities, while the Yeltsin administration has effectively frozen new privatisation and begun a hunt for scapegoats for economic problems from the Gaidar years.

Western and Russian doubts over the new oil production sharing law, the stalled attempt to give control over metals giant Norilsk Nickel to a Russian commercial bank and the offer to deal to bring an Italian partner in to

modernise Russian telecommunications are all part of a struggle for assets between state and commercial bodies, the conduct of which has scant regard for laws, decrees and official statements.

Mr Razall acknowledges the problems, but says he believed Star and Lenzoloto were now in the clear. "The people who want to see Star fall are not Russians of different political persuasions. They are economic opponents, people who would like to be in Star's position."

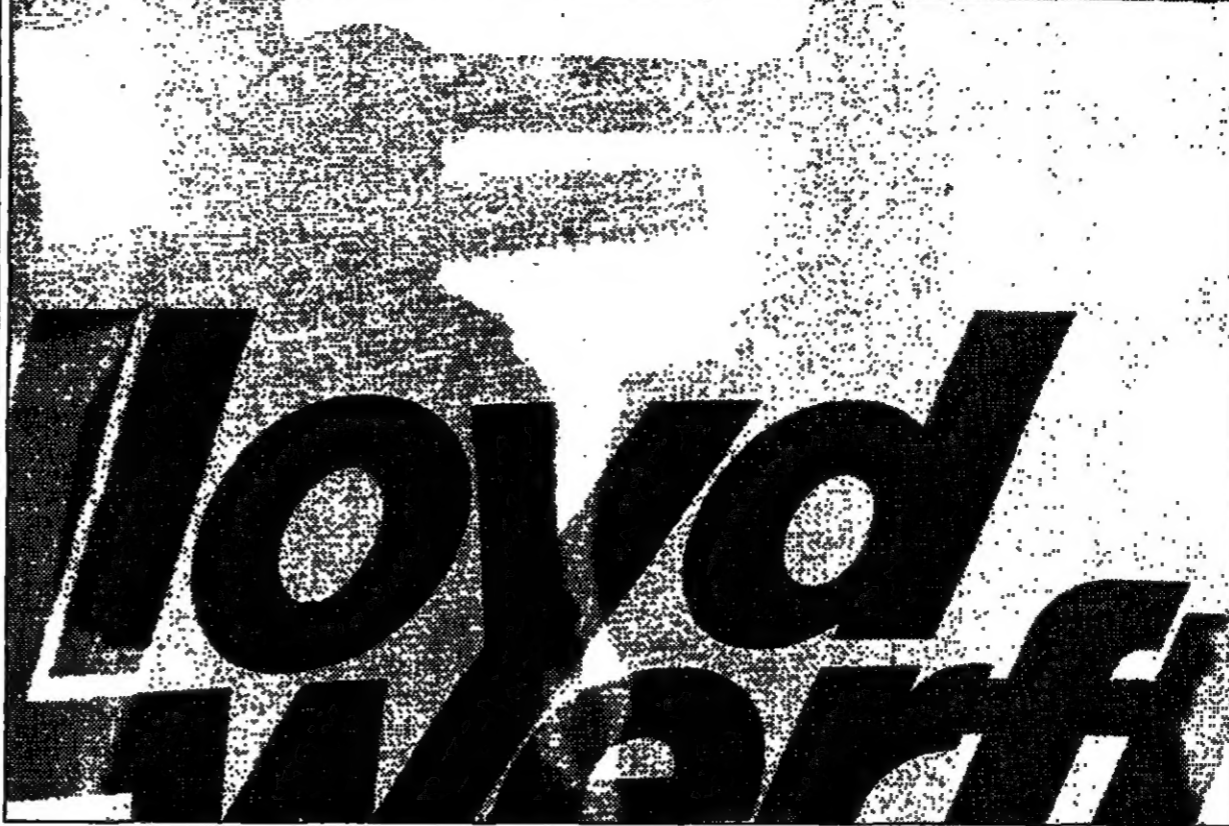
According to Star, the secrecy issue is not expected to be a problem for much longer. Mr MacNee said Lenzoloto already had access to all information about gold reserves at Sukhol Log and simply needed permission to disclose the full data to shareholders.

Star reckons the area to which Lenzoloto has the concession could be "a new Johannesburg". This year marks the 150th anniversary of the discovery of gold around the Lena river and its tributaries, the ancestral lands of the Evenki people. By 1881, the goldfields supported a Yukon-like community of prospectors with a school, a bathhouse and a brothel.

In 1912, the goldfields were the site of one of the most notorious massacres of the twentieth years of tsarism when 107 white mining miners were shot by troops.

British business also has cause to remember the region with grief. In 1925, the Soviet government gave a British company, Lena Goldfields Ltd, a 30-year concession. Five years later Stalin snatched it back.

As thousands campaign to salvage Germany's largest shipbuilder . . .



Cross road . . . Lloyd shipyard workers in Bremerhaven illustrate fears for their parent group PHOTOGRAPH PETER MUELLER

Union sounds rescue call for Vulkan

Financial staff

THOUSANDS of workers demonstrated across Germany's north coast shipbuilding region on Friday to demand the rescue of the country's largest shipbuilder, Bremer Vulkan Verbund.

Workers gathered at the gates of Bremer Vulkan's Neue Jaderwerft shipyard in Wilhelmshaven in the first of a series of protests organised by the engineering union IG Metall to highlight the impact on the industry of Bremer's feared demise.

"If Bremer Vulkan Verbund is divided up and there is one deal for the east and one for Bremen, we will be left hanging," Waldemar Hampel, head of the Jaderwerft's works council, told the demonstration.

Demonstrations were not limited to Bremer Vulkan's yards. About 1,500 workers blocked the gates at Blohm and Voss in Hamburg to show solidarity.

"We know the feeling," IG Metall official Peter Neuhaus told the workers at Blohm and Voss, noting that his workforce had halved in recent years.

Bremer Vulkan applied for protection from creditors over a week ago after disclosing a DM1 billion (£448 million) loss for 1989.

The collapse of the shipbuilder, which employs 23,000 people, would come as a severe blow to the economically depressed regions on the north German coast, where unemployment is already well above the national average.

Chargeurs split puts focus on Hollywood and TV ambitions

Textiles group spins off what may become transatlantic media force, writes ALEX DUVAL SMITH in Paris

A NEW European film and television company is emerging after Chargeurs, the French textiles and media conglomerate with a stake in BSKYB, announced this week that it is to split into two.

News of the demerger of the company, which recently rescued the left-wing Liberation newspaper, immediately sparked rumours that Chargeurs was planning a bid for MGM, the Hollywood major owned by the troubled Credit Lyonnais bank — which under the plan will group its media interests under the Pathé banner and rename its textile business Chargeurs International. — Insisted the demerger was merely a "clean-up operation."

A spokesman said the diversity of the conglomerate had lowered its stock market value. "Financial analysts do not understand our group. We have made this move to define ourselves better."

French analysts said the demerger would increase Chargeurs's stock market value, which stood at Fr3 billion (£1.2 billion) before the announcement on Tuesday. They suggested a valuation of some Fr10 billion for the media arm and Fr5 billion for textiles. But projected losses for 1989 are estimated at Fr75 million.

The losses are confined almost entirely to the media and film arm. Liberation's losses are estimated at Fr140 million this year. Chargeurs also owns the rights to two movie "turkeys" — the hugely over-spent Cutthroat Island and the box office flop Showgirls.

Under the new structure, Chargeurs's 17.5 per cent stake in Rupert Murdoch's BSKYB will come under the Pathé banner, along with Liberation, two pay-TV stations and the Pathé and Renn film production companies.

BSKYB is by far the group's biggest money-spinner and Chargeurs's share in the satellite

television company is valued at Fr1 billion.

A favoured scenario among French analysts is that Chargeurs-Pathé is "cleaning up its act" ahead of a battle for MGM against conglomerates like PolyGram. For this scenario, Fradé would enter into partnership with Mr Murdoch, who already owns 20th Century Fox.

MGM, which is expected this month to be sold by the French state receiver, has the rights to more than 1,200 films including the James Bond series. It is said to be particularly attractive because several new television channels are hungry for back-catalogue.

An alternative scenario would see Fradé bid for the TF1 franchise, which comes up for renewal in the spring. The control of France's biggest terrestrial television station is currently with Bouygues — a building group facing huge losses and claims that it has manipulated TF1's news schedules to favour right-wing politicians hostile to President Jacques Chirac.

A bid on such a scale would also require a partnership, existing proposals being to buy a stake in the French satellite pay-TV

Bretons put case for parity with UK rivals

Geoffrey Gibbs

FERRY companies serving the western channel ports are in an uneasy stand-off over the vexed question of state assistance.

In what may become another Anglo-French transport dispute, privately-owned Brittany Ferries has requested help in reducing overheads to levels enjoyed by its UK competitors.

The Roscoff-registered business has grown beyond recognition since the early 1970s when it was established by Breton farmers to ferry their produce to west of England markets.

It now employs over 2,500 people and carries around three million passengers a year on routes out of Roscoff, Caen and St Malo to the UK ports of Plymouth, Poole and Portsmouth and to Cork in the Republic of Ireland.

But while turnover has burgeoned to well over £200 million Brittany Ferries is facing choppy financial waters. With the strength of the franc compounding the problems of a high cost base, its fleet of seven wholly-owned vessels is incurring unquaranteed losses.

It has been talking to the French government in the hope of finding ways of reducing the burden of the social costs that it — as a French employer of French staff — has to bear.

The company estimates it incurs some £10 million a year in costs that its UK competitors do not face. It also complains of having to pay higher port duties in Caen, St Malo and Roscoff — where it is the only operator — than its rivals do in the larger channel ports of the east.

The company spokesman insists that they are not "doing an Air France" and asking for a state subsidy. But the discussions are being quietly monitored by rivals P & O, which operates out of Portsmouth to Cherbourg and Le Havre, for any sign of government intervention.

"We see our competitors using profits they make on other routes to subsidise fares on the western channel routes," said a Brittany Ferries spokesman. "The objective, as we see it, is to level the playing field, to find a way of giving us the same overheads as our UK competitors."

Poland's new rulers decline to bail out the birthplace of Solidarity

Walesa's demise spells danger for Gdansk

Matthew Brzezinski in Warsaw

ONE of the best-known names in European shipbuilding could be about to fall victim to the crisis besetting the industry.

Earlier this month, one of Germany's largest shipyards, Bremer Vulkan, suspended the trading of its shares as management scraped together DM200 million (£89 million) in emergency financing to attempt to bail out the ailing enterprise. This week, the directors of Poland's Stocznia Gdanska were scrambling to come up with a similar package to save the famous shipyard.

The Gdansk shipyard is not celebrated for producing bulk carriers. It is better known as the place where a monastichoid electrician named Lech Walesa launched the trade union Solidarity and toppled the communist regime.

The market reforms that followed Poland's democratic revolution have left the yard barely afloat. Orders dried up after the collapse of the Soviet Union deprived Stocznia Gdanska of its main export market. Since 1989 the company has flourished in a sea of red accounting ink, last year ringing up losses of \$38 million (\$25 million sterling).

With Mr Walesa in the presidential palace, the



Gdansk's heyday . . . Walesa, with the megaphone, led the Solidarity strike in 1980

more at local subcontractors and suppliers.

The company's directors were this week hammering out plans for wide-ranging structural reforms. The company is trying to negotiate a debt-for-equity swap with its largest creditors, Bank Handlowy and Bank Gdanski. Bank officials declined to comment on the talks or the extent of the yard's indebtedness.

Stocznia Gdanska is expected to try to raise cash by selling off considerable tracts of land it owns near Gdansk's city centre. It may also be forced to hive off other operations within the group.

If the company manages to stave off creditors, shed some of its bloated workforce and increase efficiency, it stands a good chance of survival. Its order book is estimated at \$800 million, extending to 1997.

Stocznia Gdanska's two main competitors in Poland, Stocznia Szczecinska and Stocznia Gdynia across the bay, faced similar problems in 1992. But they did not have Lech Walesa as a potential work-force and increase efficiency, it stands a good chance of survival. Its order book is estimated at \$800 million, extending to 1997.

Stocznia Gdanska's two main competitors in Poland, Stocznia Szczecinska and Stocznia Gdynia across the bay, faced similar problems in 1992. But they did not have Lech Walesa as a potential work-force and increase efficiency, it stands a good chance of survival. Its order book is estimated at \$800 million, extending to 1997.

Update

German carmaker Mercedes-Benz said yesterday that cost-cutting agreements with its workers convinced it to invest \$2.2 billion (£885 million) in new engine factories in Stuttgart. Although no job will be created, the decision guarantees about 500 positions and expands the production capacity of Mercedes.

— *Bloomberg*

The European Commission asked Lockheed Martin to provide more information about its \$1.1 billion (£6 billion) purchase of Loral. Lockheed hoped to complete the purchase by

March 20. However, the commission extended its investigation until March 27, saying that information provided by Lockheed was "incomplete".

— *Bloomberg*

European Business is edited by Mark Miller

It's a tough job — but Mr Schmidt's got to do it

Mark Miller European Business Editor

WALDEMAR Schmidt, chief executive of the international cleaning group ISS, is facing a tough decision over the future direction of the group.

After only a few months in the top job at ISS, based in Denmark, Mr Schmidt must decide whether the group will continue with its present structure, providing specific services for its customers, or embrace the US concept of turning itself into a "facilities management group".

The driving force behind facilities management is the move by a number of international companies towards contracting out basic services such as cleaning, security, heating, even the allocation of office space — "everything that has to do with running a building", as Mr Schmidt puts it.

Nor can Mr Schmidt afford to hesitate too long. Already, at least one of IBM's subsid-

Lucas joins race to buy parts firm

John Glover in Milan

BRITISH car components firm Lucas is believed to be among the contenders to buy France's Valeo, Europe's largest parts company behind Germany's Bosch.

Valeo has been hit by takeover speculation following the news that Cerus, its owner, has given its merchant bankers "a mission of strategic reflection regarding its asset portfolio". Cerus is the holding company for the French, Spanish and eastern European activities of Italy's CIR, part of Carlo De Benedetti's group.

Valeo, which the Paris Bourse values at more than 5.6 billion francs (£727 million), is by far its most valuable asset. Analysts said that Lucas, which is relatively highly geared, would need to issue paper to make a purchase of this size. Valeo's share remained steady in heavy trading yesterday, after a 5 per cent rise on Tuesday.

aries in Scandinavia has told ISS that it now works as a subcontractor to the US company brought in as facilities manager, rather than directly for the IBM subsidiary itself.

It is not a situation which Mr Schmidt appears particularly keen. "My view is that we would rather work directly for the consumer than through a facilities manager." His view is hardly surprising. The system is unlikely to allow the facilities manager or the sub-contractor to make the kind of margins they are looking for.

More difficult is to determine whether the move to facilities management is representative of the way the whole service provision market is going, or whether it will remain a small part.

Meanwhile, ISS is already reshaping, with increasing focus on servicing specialist areas such as hospitals — where ISS has added functions, including portering and car park management, to its cleaning services — and food manufacturing. It is also de-

centralising head office staff at Holte, just outside Copenhagen, are being trimmed.

Mr Schmidt remains an enthusiast for raising standards in an industry notorious for its low skill levels and high staff turnover. He is a keen supporter of works councils, and ISS has brought in its own "job centres" in an attempt to recruit, and then retain, the staff it wants.

There is commercial sense behind the drive to higher standards and retaining employees — cutting staff turnover takes a big chunk out of budgets for recruitment, training and uniforms.

It has not been easy. The group lost a big cleaning contract at Heathrow, for example, because it priced its contract on the basis of paying its workers £5 an hour, rather than its competitor's £3.65.

Mr Schmidt reacts with horror to the idea that ISS might have cut its wages to keep the contract. "We have been fighting so hard. We have lost that battle, but we have not lost the war."

Cerus denied that any decision had been taken on the future of its stake in Valeo. This totals 26 per cent of the company's capital, though it accounts for 42 per cent of the voting rights. But it did not rule out a sale. In the past, Mr De Benedetti's group has been quick to reject rumours of planned sales of other assets, such as its Italian publishing interests.

The group's reported plans to sell Valeo have been linked with its difficulties at Olivetti. Last year, Olivetti was forced to ask shareholders for almost \$1 billion to cover the losses run up by its personal computer business. But Mr De Benedetti insists that the money is sufficient to meet Olivetti's needs.

Over the past decade, Valeo has been transformed from a small supplier serving mostly its domestic market into a global player in the vehicle components business.

At the halfway point last year, it posted profits of \$84 million on sales of more than £1.7 billion.

Tide turns against shipyards, page 23

Nuclear performance falters, page 22

Pep talk for soccer fans, page 21

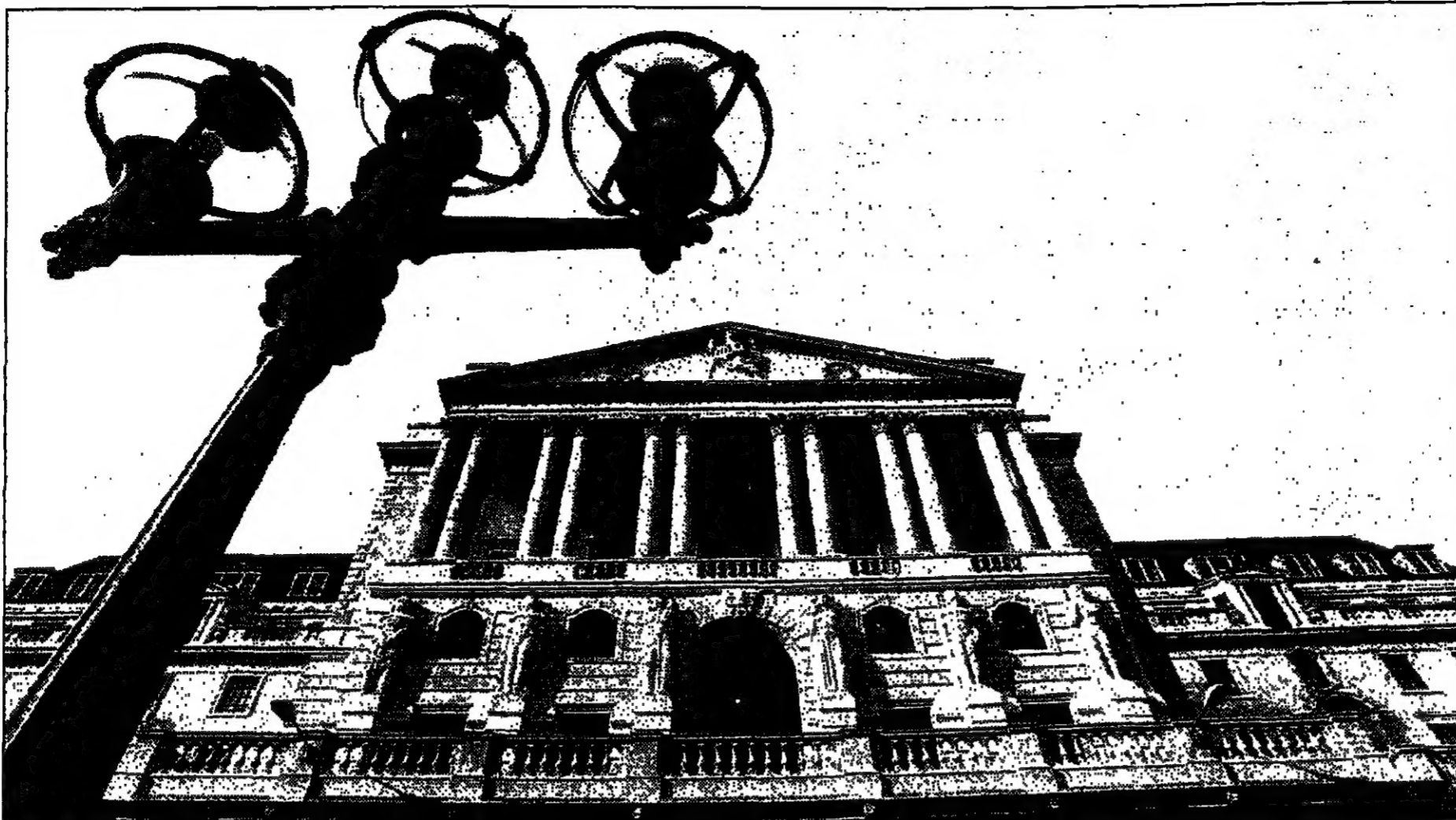
Marks offers money back, page 21

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

Rough and tumble at the Bank

LARRY ELLIOTT and MARK MILNER look back on 12 months in which the behaviour of one rogue trader and one rogue politician were far from the only crosses the beleaguered Governor had to bear



In perspective... the Bank of England has ridden out rough years before. Avoiding scandal, of either the banking or banking variety, would help to restore its credibility. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITOE

ALL in all, it's been a year to forget for Eddie George. It started with a... sking resort and ended with a few red lines on a graph. Both spelled trouble. The telephone call, which came exactly a year ago this week, told the Governor that it was hardly worth his unpacking for his week's holiday in the Alps because a young man from Watford, operating out of Singapore, had brought down Britain's oldest merchant bank. The graph, in its latest quarterly inflation report, represented the Old Lady's admission of defeat in its battle with the Treasury over interest rates. But the Governor's year has not just been the tale of one rogue trader and one rogue politician. He found himself short of a deputy after Rupert Pennant-Rea's sexual shenanigans with his mistress — in the Governor's own dressing room at the Bank — were splashed all over the papers. Meanwhile, Mr Pennant-Rea's reorganisation of the Bank proved so damaging to staff morale that Mr George had to promise urgent management reforms. Things had looked so different in 1994. Then, Mr George was in his pomp, calling the shots over interest rates and looking forward to being given full operational independence over monetary policy. It seemed a question of when, not if. Today, by a mix-

ture of bad luck, bad timing and bad judgment, the Bank has a credibility problem. That's not to say it cannot regain the ground lost over the past 12 months. Nor that it remains blissfully unaware of what needs to be done. Steps have been taken in many of the areas of organisational weakness, there have been some real successes in its market operations and Mr George's warnings about the dangers of inflation may yet be vindicated. But it will take time to restore its image. The first part of the Bank's triple whammy came late in February 1995 when news broke that Barings had somehow amassed losses of getting on for £1 billion as a result of Nick Leeson's unauthorised share dealings in the Far East. Mr George scurried back from France to take charge of the rescue bid, but was not around in the first vital hours after the Bank was told of the seriousness of the losses by shame-faced Barings executives. It was unfortunate that the Governor was there, since, according to Stephen Fay's account of the collapse, Mr Pennant-Rea lacked the clout to exploit the mood of deep shock among the City's financial elite summoned to the Bank that Friday afternoon. The Bank's initial response to Barings was that it was a question of simple fraud rather than a failure of regulation or supervision. But that was for public consumption. With the Bank of Credit and

The Old Lady's bad year... and Eddie George's wisdom

Feb 1995: Barings goes into receivership.

March 1995: Rupert Pennant-Rea resigns.

May 1995: Chancellor says no to Bank's call for higher interest rates.

Sept 1995: Governor stops urging higher rates.

Oct 1995: Governor promises steps to improve staff morale.

Dec 1995: Bank agrees to rate cut.

Feb 1996: Bank says inflation outlook improved.

It is hardly surprising, given the uncertainties, that reasonable people may differ from time to time in their judgments as to precisely what course to steer. The really remarkable thing would be if they always agreed. Indeed, that would raise doubts about the credibility of the process. Mansion House speech, May 14, 1995

Central banks don't have divine wisdom. They try to do the best analysis they can and must be prepared to stand or fall by the quality of that analysis. Guardian and El Mundo interview, May 22

No one will be more delighted than I will be if we do hit the inflation target without some further rise in interest rates. I will happily then eat humble pie. Manchester, Sept 18

There must have been some kind of collusion or relationship between the trader and back office staff. On Nick Leeson and Barings, February 27

If you want better regulation, you have got to take account of the fact that this kind of witch-hunt every time something goes wrong is going to make it very difficult to find the people to do the job. To Commons Treasury select committee, July 19

Getting people to do this job is becoming damn difficult. How on earth do you think when you go through this kind of procedure every time there is a problem? Every time there is a problem there is a great investigation — you want blood. Ditto

Commerce International case still fresh in the public mind, the Barings affair was painful and has left scars. Inevitably there were those who questioned whether the Bank had relied too much on an "old boy network" approach to supervision and not enough on hard-nosed questions about what was really going on. Headlines like "Blame the Bank, says Leeson" were no doubt easy enough to shrug off. Mr Leeson was scarily in a position to accuse the Bank of incompetence in unwinding the huge, loss-making trading

positions he had built up. But the criticisms of the Bank's role in the affair from the Board of Banking Supervision — including the absence of on-site visits to Barings — and Labour's questioning of the Bank's continued retention of the role of banking supervisor were a different matter. The pressure on the Bank and the damage to morale by the information uncovered by the investigations into the Barings collapse in the UK and Singapore were demonstrated publicly by Mr George's anguished complaint when giving evidence to the

Commons Treasury and Civil Service committee, about witch-hunts. Subsequently, the Bank's line has been quietly modified. At one level, the Barings fiasco has been rationalised. Howard Davies, the new deputy governor designated to beef up supervision, has argued that the occasional bank collapse is inevitable and perhaps even healthy, since it improves watchfulness and overall standards. Even so, practical steps are being taken to increase the number and quality of supervisors. The Bank's main area of

work has been the government debt market. At a time when London's equity-trading community is deeply at odds with itself over whether to switch from a quote to an order-driven system, the biggest struggle in the gilts market is in keeping up with a Bank-inspired reform programme whose components are high on many participants' wish lists. Gilts issuance has been made more transparent. A gilts "strip" market — where the capital and interest on government bonds can be traded separately — is on the way. Both

measures are designed to make the gilts market more user-friendly, as is the third plank of the Bank's return programme — the open gilt repo market, which came into operation at the start of the year. This last reform brought London more into line with established practices in bond markets in France and Germany and may well make the British bond market more attractive to foreign investors. The gilts market, however, is hardly a wide enough support base for the Bank. It needs to rebuild its image with a much wider audience. That may well be one key reason why Mr Davies has been brought in. His arrival has not been universally welcomed among senior officials who believe, almost certainly correctly, that the able and ambitious former director-general of the CBI has his eyes on the top job at the Bank. He is, of course, not the only one. However, Mr Davies was recruited after Mr Pennant-Rea stepped into the limelight for a second time within a month. Amid some rather predictable headlines, details of his affair with a freelance journalist emerged three weeks after the Barings collapse. Whether or not there was coupling on the Governor's carpet, Mr Pennant-Rea, following his zealous reorganisation, had few friends at the Bank. More importantly, he was in danger of becoming a figure of fun. Mr George is not a hands-off gentleman banker

The Guardian Weekly
Subscribe to a more interesting point of view
With Britain's best international news weekly
The Guardian Weekly Subscription Rates
United Kingdom £24.00 6 months £47.00 1 year £82.00
Europe (inc. Eire) £26.50 6 months £52.00 1 year £92.00
USA, Canada £28.00 6 months £55.00 1 year £98.00
Rest of the World £30.50 6 months £60.00 1 year £108.00

Blood on the carpet
Richard Thomas
IT IS the ultimate negotiating tool, although absent from books on the subject. Facing the sack or demotion? A simple solution presents itself: threaten to kill yourself. Even if the person on the other side of the table doubts your intent, the chances are they won't risk it. No one wants blood on their hands. Working on this principle, some people have turned the suicide threat into an art form: Ted Turner, the boss of CNN, was renowned for using it to get his way. The problem, of course, is that after a while, it begins to look like crying wolf and loses impact. But Mr Turner is an unrepresentative tip of a growing iceberg. There are many people in an age of downsizing, right-sizing, and — ghastliest of all — "people-saving", who are driven by genuine desperation into using this last-resort tactic. Georgina Tate, from the Industrial Society — which runs a helpline for personnel chiefs — says: "We do get people ringing up with employees threatening suicide, wondering what to do. Anecdotal evidence — although hard to back up with statistics — suggests an increasing number of people are threatening to kill themselves in despair at the prospect of losing their jobs. It is a sadder, more desperate side to the increase in white collar stress which has prompted an outbreak of violence in erstwhile tranquil offices. For some time now companies have been waking up to lower-order problems such as absenteeism and damaged productivity by setting up stress counselling facilities. Confidential helplines for employees attempting to cope with everything from negative equity to drug dependency are now a regular feature of British corporate life. Private health insurers are also using a "keep your staff sane" message to sell corporate policies. Although the figures are lacking we do know that people in higher-status oc-

Quick Crossword No. 8063
Solution No. 8062
Across
1 To throb (anag) — panting (5,2,6)
8 Appense (7)
9 Abdominal pain (5)
10 Very keen (4)
11 Ocean organisms (6)
13 Landing strip (6)
14 Overcast — muddy (6)
17 Dais (6)
19 Clothed (4)
21 Scottish landowner (5)
22 Intended (7)
24 Top female singer from Cardiff (7,5)
Down
1 Drink delicately (3)
2 Prolonged applause (7)
3 Eleven — a side (4)
4 Frail (5)
5 Of late (6)
6 Distribute (5)
7 Overused, stereotyped (5)
10 Citadel of Athens (2)
12 Spring flower (6)
15 Area of high ground (7)
16 Symbol of victory (6)
18 "I was elsewhere" excuse (5)
20 Series of facts (4)
23 Thirty — having no liquid (3)

ong Kong
Enter the d
Bom
horro
ocks
srael
A
in HK Chin
visa acces